


My Lesbian Affair

Lisa D. Vaughn



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By Lisa D. Vaughn

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Dedication:

This is my first book and it is dedicated to Professor Steve Lewis who inspired me to write and to "Tiger", a stray kitten that was with me when I decided to write this book. May she rest in peace.

MY LESBIAN AFFAIR

Written by Lisa D.Vaughn

Judy has been my best friend since Elementary School. She is like a sister to me. One with whom I share all of my secrets with. I know that she would never share them with anyone else. She is my confidant, a true friend.

Michael is my long-time boyfriend who has been to hell and back with me. We have been together for seven years. Recently, he proposed to me and he is still waiting for my answer. I still remember the day that this happened. It was a warm, sunny spring day on a Saturday in the month of April while I was working in my garden. Michael actually got down on one knee with a smile that would light up the sky. Looking like a young innocent school boy. He said "Lucy, will you marry me?" I smiled, but never gave him the exact answer that he wanted. I had more fun watching him trying to get up off of his knee since Michael is not as thin as he used to be. Shortly after, I pondered over Michael's proposal and wondered to myself why I did not give him the answer that he wanted. I guess deep down, I don't want to answer him because a large part of me like things just the way they are. Marriage is forever, I guess I can't think that far ahead yet.

Michael and I met in my sophomore year in college and we have been inseparable ever since. He is a large part of my life, but lately, our relationship has felt so routine. We live together in a beautiful rented three bedroom single family house by the lake. It is quite lovely and peaceful. We like to attend the nearby baptist church on Sundays as it was always a family tradition for the both of us. Pastor James keeps asking us when are

we getting married? Oh, how I love to avoid that subject! Maybe he will get tired of asking, I hope.

I like to break my routine with Michael sometimes by getting together with my best friend, Judy. Judy's life is quite different from mine. She is an out and about lesbian and she has been since high school. I can still remember the moment that she first told me. We were both in the 12th grade and we were walking home one day from school. It was a week before graduation. I was not that surprised when she told me because Judy has always been somewhat of a tomboy and did not seem interested in boys. However, I am not sure that I understand this, but I love her just the same. I like to joke with her about her relationships, which are usually filled with some sort of drama. Michael avoids Judy like the plague because he cannot understand her lifestyle. Most of the time, Judy and I hang out when Michael works late or is visiting his parents.

Recently, Judy and I got together one Saturday Afternoon for lunch while Michael was away visiting his parents in Delaware. Judy knew that I would be alone until Monday Night and she asked me to attend a house party with her and her girlfriend which was being held that night. I was very skeptical about going to this party because I knew that it would be mostly single lesbians looking for companionship and I would be a total misfit in the crowd. Judy was so persistent that I decided to go which made her very happy since I do not get out much for fun and socializing.

Judy, her girlfriend Sandy and I arrived at the house party around 7PM which was being held by Judy's friend and neighbor, Tina Bates. Tina was a beautiful stunning woman. She had olive skin with jet black wavy hair with green eyes and a smile that would turn a lot of heads. Tina was quite surprised to see me since I have never done anything on impulse especially attending a lesbian party.

Tina's house was beautiful. It was a three bedroom single family brick house with a finished basement that had a beautiful bar and she had every kind of drink imaginable. She also hired a professional bartender to make our drinks which was quite impressive. The party seemed like an intimate setting with about 30 women present. I enjoyed listening to the variety of music that was being played softly in the background.

Judy and her friend Sandy said hello to Tina and quickly went to the other side of the room to talk to some friends. I was left standing alone with Tina. She smiled at me and offered me a drink. I decided to try a Tom Collins for starters. Once I loosened up a bit, Tina and I chatted a while

about our careers. Tina is a Journalist for a well know radio station and in her spare time she is a Gay Rights Advocate. I found it quite easy to talk to Tina since I am a News Reporter and I love a good story and gaining knowledge of the latest current events. Tina shared some information with me regarding a young woman who was devastated after losing her long time partner when she was shot and killed during a bank robbery, and then she was denied her partner's Pension and Spousal Benefits because the law does not recognize them in the same way as a heterosexual married couple. We had a deep discussion about this and I realized how educated Tina was on the subject and how much passion she had for her work. I told Tina that we should keep in contact more often so that we can exchange information and she was quite please about this.

Tina then offered me another drink along with some hor d'oeuvres. The hor d'oeuvres were the best that I ever tasted. It was a soft dough filled with crispy bacon and a cheddar cheese puff on a toothpick. I decided to have another Tom Collins which made me feel even more relaxed and after another long conversation with Tina, I decided to look for Judy. I found Judy and Sandy sitting comfortably in Tina's dining room with some of her friends. They seem to be having a great time laughing, drinking and talking. I noticed that it was getting late. It was almost 10PM and I was thinking about Michael and why he had not called me. I immediately excused myself and I went into another room to call Michael. When Michael finally picked up the phone on the fourth ring, I was annoyed and he told me that he was watching the game with his Dad and he lost track of the time. He asked how was I doing? I told him that I was out with Judy and some of her friends and that I would be going home shortly. Michael was not impressed. I knew how he felt about Judy and her friends.

At the same time, he also knew that Judy was my best friend and how important she was to me. Michael briefly spoke to me about his parents and told me that he will be home Monday night. Michael's parents never really liked me that much. They hate the fact that Michael and I live together.

Michael's mother (Sara) always have a lot to say about this. Therefore, I try not to visit with them on a regular basis in order to avoid the issue. I promptly hung up with Michael and went back to where Judy was. I told Judy that I should start heading home since it was getting late and she asked me to stay a half hour longer since she knew that I would be going home alone. Judy wanted us to leave together. I sighed and agreed to stay a half hour longer. She was having such a good time with some of her friends

that she had not seen in a while that I did not want to seem like a party pooper.

At that moment, Tina came over to me to express how much she enjoyed our conversation and that she would like to get together with me sometimes. She gave me her house and cell number so that we can keep in contact. I agreed to give her a call.

Tina then introduced me to one of her college room mates named Angela who worked as a pharmacist at the nearby drug store. We chat and laughed about all of the crazy things that we did while we were in college and how fun and free we were while being away from our parents. I was having such a good time that I hated for the night to end. At that moment, Judy and Sandy came over to me and said that they were ready to leave. I gave Tina a hug and told her that I had a great time.

CHAPTER 2

The next morning, I managed to get to church on time and at the end of the service, Pastor James asked about Michael. I told him that Michael was visiting with his parents and that he will be home on Monday. Pastor James complimented me on attending services even though Michael was out of town. As I got home, my telephone was ringing and when I answered it, Judy was on the line talking so fast about the party last night that I had to tell her to slow down. Judy told me how fascinated Tina was with me and that she was actually looking forward to talking with me again. I laughed and said that Tina was a lovely lady and that I was looking forward to meeting with her soon so that we can exchange information. I was eager to meet with Tina so that she could fill me in on the latest current events so that I could use this information at work. Judy told me that she had the feeling that Tina was attracted to me. I told her that Tina is a nice person, but I am in a relationship with Michael and I could never see myself with a woman.

Judy laughed and teased me for a while and then asked me to meet her for dinner.

We met at a new restaurant that had only been opened for three months called "The Sunset Cafe". Judy had steak, potatoes and a marguerita. I had salmon, potatoes and a glass of red wine. It was a lovely restaurant and I enjoyed spending some alone time with Judy so that we can chat about girl stuff which I could not do when Michael was around. Judy talked about how much she likes Sandy and that the relationship was getting serious. Judy has never been in a long term relationship and I was quite happy for her. We talked about Michael and how I was worried about our relationship being so routine. I told Judy about the proposal and my reaction to it. Judy

was not surprised about my reaction. She said that Michael always seemed too conservative, boring and somewhat of a control freak. Judy thought that I could find someone much better than Michael and she had no problem saying so.

I decided to order another glass of red wine and a small salad. We talked about work briefly and then Judy decided to tell me about Tina. Tina had been in a long term relationship that ended abruptly when her ex partner (Cynthia) stated that they had grown apart and she was moving out to California. Tina was devastated and that had been almost two years ago. Tina decided to keep the house without any argument from Cynthia and she began to drown her sorrows into her work. Sometimes working around the clock just to keep busy.

I felt sorry for Tina because she was a good person who did not deserve to be treated so unfairly. I thought about how lonely it must be for her to come home to an empty house with no one to greet her or to ask her how her day was. I made a mental note to myself to stay in contact with Tina.

What a heartbreaking story! I said to Judy. I don't know what I would do without Michael. I cannot even imagine my life without Michael in it. Judy sighed and then said that we should get going because it was getting late and she had a hectic day ahead of her at work tomorrow. I agreed and pick up the check. Judy and I said goodnight at the front door of the restaurant and then I got into my car. On my way home, I could not help thinking about Tina and how life can be full of so many hurtful disappointments. I was glad that I had Michael. I told myself that we would be together always, even if I decided not to marry him.

I got to my office Monday morning at 5:20 a.m. so that I could prepare myself to report on a major story regarding a serial rapist. This rapist was very careful and clever. He managed to elude the police once again. I had been following this story for three months now without any major clues to the identity of this rapist. He was quite different from any other stories that I had reported in the past. This guy likes to take his victims out on a date where he meets them for dinner. Then he spikes their drink with some sort of date rape substance that eventually leaves the victim feeling sluggish and sleepy. He then pays for their dinner with cash and then makes up an excuse to take the victim to a hotel where he eventually rapes them. While the victim is asleep, he leaves the hotel and when the victim wakes up, she cannot remember how she ended up at the hotel. I am learning just how

clever this rapist is. He always goes to different towns to find his victims and he always pays with cash.

I decided to check my telephone messages to see if any new leads were on this case. I was eager to get any information on this guy. To my surprise, I had a message from one of my colleagues named Brenda asking to meet with me before I go on the air at 6 a.m. She stated that this was urgent. Brenda was one of our best journalists who specialized in obtaining information regarding crime stories. I went into Brenda's office immediately and she told me that the rapist struck again yesterday. This time, his victim was able to give a description. The victim stated that she met the rapist from an online newspaper dating ad. He told the victim that his name was Brody Dawson. He was described as being 5'8" with dark brown curly hair and light brown eyes. He was very well mannered and charming. The victim stated that she felt at ease because they were dining out in a public place around other people and she did not appear to be in any danger. I decided to gather as much information as I could so that I could report on this story when I was on the air at 6am.

At 6:00 a.m., I went on the air and reported the additional information that I was given from Brenda and the victim regarding the rapist. I gave our viewers a toll free hot line number to call if they know the true identity of this rapist.

The rest of my day went by with no other major stories to report. When my day ended at 5pm, I was eager to get home to see Michael. I knew that he would already be home waiting for me.

When I got home, Michael was at his computer writing a story for work. Michael is an editor for the *Chicago Newspaper* which is a 30 minute ride from our lake home. Michael writes articles based on political current events happening in our town and the surrounding areas. He also does occasional interviews with constituents to get their feedback and opinions of how they feel about the economy and our Mayor. Michael likes to then use this information for reports on statistics.

I was so happy to see him that I immediately gave him a big hug and kiss. Michael smiled and said that he missed me. Michael's smile reminded me of why I was so attracted to him. Michael was 5'10" with hazel eyes, dark hair and a pale complexion. When we met in my sophomore year in college, I was introduced to Michael by my then room mate, Rita. Michael was the best friend of Rita's boyfriend named Howard. Michael had been stood up by a girl who was supposed to show up for a double date with Rita and

Howard. Rita called me to fill in. When Michael and I met, his smile and charisma blew me away and we have been together ever since that night.

I told Michael about the hectic day that I had at work and about how close we are to finding out the identity of this rapist. Michael was very disturbed by the fact that this rapist had struck again and he was worried about my safety. I explained to Michael that the rapist victims were all raped after meeting him for dinner and that he had nothing to worry about. We discuss the subject for a little while longer and then Michael told me that he was a little worried about his father because his father had recently had a bout with bronchitis and that he was not taking care of himself the way that he should. His mother had been doing the best that she could but she had her own health issues. Michael wished that his parents lived closer to us so that he did not have to worry about them as much. His parents grew up in the house where they lived in Delaware and Michael knew that they would never leave it alive. Lately, he has been visiting his parents quite often due to their age and health issues. Michael is an only child. Therefore, he is responsible for handling their assets.

I decided to prepare dinner while Michael continued to work on the computer. At that moment, the phone rang and Michael answered it. He told me that Tina was on the line. I was happy to hear from her. I told Tina about the rapist and about the information that I received from his last victim. Tina told me that she watched my news broadcast about it and was praying that we catch him before he strikes again. I told her that I will keep her updated. Tina then asked me if I would be free to meet with her next week for lunch. She wanted to discuss some topics with me about her radio broadcast. I was delighted and told Tina that I would meet with her next Thursday afternoon for lunch.

CHAPTER 3

The next day at work was very hectic. We had received several tips regarding the identity of the rapist, however, these tips turned out to be unsuccessful and I was at my wits end. My manager, Kyle Simmons scheduled a fifteen minute meeting with our entire staff to talk to us about working overtime until we get more information regarding the rapist's identity. Kyle wanted Brenda and I to work together in the field gathering any information that we could about the rapist. I was to continue to report the news, then work two hours a day in the field until we got information regarding the identity and background of the rapist. Brenda suggested that we start by returning phone calls to some potential leads. She had four messages on her answering machine and she was eager to return the calls.

While Brenda was away in her office, I prepared to go on the air. I took the next fifteen minutes to review my human interest story involving a landlord and tenant issue. The tenant was an elderly woman who had been living in her apartment for the last 22 years. She lived in a rent stabilized apartment and the new landlord wanted to renovate the building and increase the rent by 30% which would force this elderly tenant to move because she could not afford to pay the rent increase. I was to interview this woman so that she could share her story with us. I was looking forward to this interview. Maybe her story will not only get a lot of publicity, but it will raise awareness of what is happening to the elderly citizens in our community.

My interview with the elderly woman named Ms. Edith Stroudsberg went very well. Ms. Stroudsberg stated that she has been living in her rent stabilize apartment for 22 years and her husband passed away three years ago. She has a daughter who is married and lives in New Jersey.

Mrs. Stroudsberg indicated that she would lose her independence if she had to leave her apartment because this situation would force her to live with her daughter and her four children. Although Mrs. Stroudsberg was elderly, she was very independent and healthy. She did not want to leave the apartment that she shared with her deceased husband for so many years. I then discussed some options that might help her situation such as getting as many people as we could in the community to sign a petition against this rent increase and to send this petition to our town mayor. I also stated that we could contact a tenant's right attorney for her so that she knows her rights as a tenant living in a rent stabilized apartment.

Once this interview was over, my colleague spoke with Mrs. Stroudsberg in detail about her options. I was hoping to receive a lot of telephone calls and letters about this matter. The rest of the day went rather smoothly and at 5:00 sharp, I was ready to work with Brenda out in the field to find information on this serial rapist. Brenda spoke to me briefly about the lead that she had on the rapist. One of her messages was from a woman named Dawn Baker who recognized the description that was given on the rapist and Brenda wanted to follow up on this lead right away. While we were on the way to the home of Dawn Baker, Brenda told me that she spoke briefly on the telephone with Dawn and she seems to have some valuable information for us. Dawn had told Brenda she believes that the rapist was a well known respected professor at a nearby college and that he was her math professor a year ago while she was attending classes at the college.

Dawn lived in the city part of town in a three family brick house with a huge fenced in backyard. Dawn lived on the second floor and she had a lovely 1 bedroom cozy apartment that was furnished with beautiful antique silverware and furniture. She invited us into her dining room area. After offering us a cup of tea, Dawn reviewed the sketch that we had of the rapist. She told us that his name was Professor Jacob Messer and he had been a professor at North Western University for the last 15 years. Dawn stated that Professor Messer has an impeccable reputation and that she was shocked of how much he resembles the sketch of the rapist. Dawn shared a picture of Professor Messer from her graduation of last year. She told us that she received her Bachelor's Degree last year majoring in Computer Science and that she is currently working as a Computer Technologist 30 minutes out of town. Dawn gave a lot of praise and recognition to Professor Messer for helping her to get through her difficult math classes. I asked her if we could keep this photo so that we can take it back to the news station and discuss

the matter with my manager. After a lot of persuasion, she reluctantly gave me the picture. Brenda thanked Dawn for the picture and told her that we will be in touch.

It was nearly 6:30 PM when we left Dawn's house. Brenda was quite satisfied with the information and picture that we received from Dawn and she was eager to get back to the station to start her research on Professor Messer. I would follow up by making a telephone call to the victim that gave us a description of the rapist. I asked the victim if Brenda and I could meet with her tomorrow to discuss with her the information that we received. I was careful to keep Dawn's identity a secret to protect her against any backlash or potential harm that she could face for giving us this information. After I hung up the phone, I realized that it was 7:30 and I had not spoken to Michael all day. I checked my messages to see if he called and I was quite surprise to see that Michael had not called me. He usually calls me at least once a day. I decided to call home to let Michael know that I was on my way home. Michael picked up on the second ring and I was glad to hear his voice. I asked him about his day and why he had not called. Michael stated that he had a busy day working on an important story for his boss and that he loss track of the time. He told me that he had only been home for a half hour. He then asked me what was I making for dinner and I told him not to worry that I would be home within 20 minutes and would make dinner promptly. After I hung up with Michael, I told Brenda that I was leaving for the evening and that I would see her tomorrow.

I arrived home at 8:10 p.m. and Michael was on the phone with his father. His father was complaining about his lower back and Michael told him to see a doctor immediately. It always irritated me how Michael's parents always called to mostly complain about something. At times, I wondered if Michael secretly enjoyed being needed so much by his parents. Michael kissed me and asked me if I wanted to speak with his mother. I briefly said hello to his mother and told her that I had to make dinner. I asked Michael if he wanted chicken or hamburger for dinner. He replied "hamburger" at which I quickly went into the kitchen to make hamburgers, rice and green beans. I was feeling quite exhausted from a hectic day and I was hoping that Michael would have ordered us some take out food.

After we ate dinner, I asked Michael to wash the dishes and then I told him that I was going to bed. Michael asked me if I was okay and I told him that I was exhausted from a hectic day. He said that he wanted to talk to me about some of his colleagues and his boss. Michael then told me that

he wanted to invite his boss and two of his colleagues over next Saturday for dinner. He wanted to impress his boss with a nice dinner in hopes of being considered for a promotion. He then handed me a list of the food and drinks that I should buy and prepare for this dinner party. All of a sudden, I found myself getting very angry with Michael and I lashed out at him. Hell has no fury like an angry woman! I told Michael how angry I was that he had a list prepared for me without even asking me and how dare that he make plans for me without even considering if I had any plans of my own for the weekend. Michael then said that is why I asked to talk to you about this Lucy. I immediately stated that this does not feel like a discussion, but a carefully planned out demand. Michael became infuriated and I told him that this conversation was over. I immediately went upstairs to my bedroom and slammed the door. Michael decided to sleep on the living room couch.

CHAPTER 4

The next morning I woke up at 4:30 a.m. feeling restless from the previous night. I must have slept for about three hours after tossing and turning most of the night thinking about my fight with Michael. How I hate fighting with him, but I could not let him do this to me. I got up, took a shower, got dress and headed downstairs to make some coffee and bagels. Michael was still asleep on the couch. I almost felt sorry for him. As I was drinking my coffee, I decided to make a turkey and cheese sandwich for Michael to take for lunch along with an apple and a can of ginger ale. I immediately put his lunch in his lunch box and I left a note on top of his lunch box stating that I hope to be home a little earlier today and that we needed to talk about last night. I sat there thinking about my schedule at work. I wondered if this would be my only meal until I returned home from work. Sometimes it was so hectic at work, that I felt lucky to be able to take a lunch break. I sighed and decided to take some energy bars with me. As I was leaving the house, I thought about waking Michael up, I decided against this because it was so early and he seemed to be sleeping so peacefully. As I got into my car, I thought about Michael again and how I dislike arguing with him.

I arrived at work at 5:15 a.m. and I immediately noticed that Brenda was not in yet. I put on a pot of coffee and went over to my desk to review what was on my itinerary for the day. At that moment, I noticed that Kyle was in his office looking quite pensive. He came over to me to discuss the information that Brenda and I had gotten from Dawn. He was quite impress and wanted me to follow up by getting some past history information on Professor Messer. Kyle wanted me to get some concrete information that I could use on my morning broadcast. He wanted me to have this information

within the next two days. I sighed and told him that I would look into this matter and give him details on what I find. Kyle seemed pleased and decided to briefly discuss my itinerary. He stated that because of my interview with Mrs. Stroudsberg, she was able to get more than 2,000 signatures from viewers and a lot of her neighbors. Therefore, she was able to get a lawyer and she won her right to stay in her rent stabilized apartment. The judge also stated that her landlord could not increase the rent for the next two years and the increase could not be more than 2%. This was a huge victory for Mrs. Stroudsberg and I was very happy that we decided to interview her. These kind of victories made me reflect on why I love my job. Kyle wanted me to report this outcome in my morning broadcast. I also noticed a story about a missing cat named Babycakes. Babycakes was a female calico cat who went missing three days ago. Her owners were offering a \$500.00 reward for her safe return. Babycakes was allowed to roam the neighborhood on a daily basis. The owners stated that they live in a safe, quiet neighborhood and Babycakes always returned home promptly for dinner. I had one more story about an older man who had beat prostate cancer.

After my brief discussion with Kyle, I made my coffee and continued to read my notes. At 6 am, I went on the air and reported my stories. After my broadcast, I decided to see if Brenda was in her office. Brenda was on the telephone and she seemed very excited.

Once she got off the telephone, Brenda told me that she was going to check out a new restaurant in town that received great reviews. I reminded Brenda that we had to continue to get more information on Professor Messer to see if he really is the serial rapist. I explained to Brenda that our manager Kyle wanted a detailed report on Professor Messer within the next two days. Brenda told me that she will help me follow up on this when she returned from the restaurant. Brenda wanted to be one of the first journalists to write a story about how popular this new restaurant was. She appeared to have little interest in helping me follow up on the Messer case. I went into my office and decided to browse through internet articles on Professor Messer. As I was looking for new information on Professor Messer, my phone rung and Tina was on the other line reminding me that tomorrow was Thursday and I promised to have lunch with her. I was happy to hear from her. We briefly talked about work and we decided to meet at a restaurant nearby her home called Tiffany's. We made arrangements to meet at 1:00 PM.

As I hung up the phone, I wondered why I felt nervous about having lunch with Tina. Oh well, maybe it's because I never take lunch and that

I could be nervous about breaking my no lunch routine. I smiled and continue to search for information on Professor Messer.

The rest of the day went by with no drama or major stories to report. I also did not find any concrete information on the professor. I knew that Kyle would not be pleased to hear this. Therefore, I decided to keep this information to myself until I reported to Kyle again on Friday. At the end of the day, I noticed that Brenda had been away from her office most of the day and I wondered if she was still at the new restaurant. I decided that I would catch up with Brenda tomorrow morning. I was hoping that she was in the field gathering some new information on Professor Messer since I was not getting anywhere with this matter so far.

I arrived home at 7 PM and I found Michael in the kitchen preparing a nice candle light dinner. I was quite surprised since we both had not spoken to one another after our heated argument. Michael immediately apologized to me for his actions and said that he did not mean to be inconsiderate of my feelings. He told me not to worry about dinner and for me to change clothes and get comfortable. Michael had made a nice Sirloin Steak dinner with mashed potatoes, green beans and a Greek Salad. The table was covered with a blue tablecloth, dinner plates, wine glasses and two red candles. I also apologized to Michael for losing my temper and I threw my arms around him and kissed him tenderly. I immediately went upstairs to take a quick shower and change into my night clothes.

When I returned, Michael was sitting at the dinner table with a big smile on his face. He seemed to be quite pleased with himself. It reminded me of why I love him so much. As we ate dinner, I told Michael that I was getting closer to preparing a broadcast with the description of the rapist. Michael was quite impressed regarding all of the information that Brenda and I had gathered and he was quite shock about Professor Messer. He said that he could not believe that Professor Messer is responsible for these crimes because of his impeccable reputation and that he was well known and highly respected. I told Michael that it is hard to believe, however, this is the lead that we have and I have one more day to gather additional information as per Kyle. Michael said good luck and decided to change the conversation to us. He said that he wanted to make this a special night about us and he apologized again for his behavior.

At that moment, Michael took my hand and kissed it tenderly and told me that he did not want to fight anymore. He then leaned over and kissed me passionately. I responded to his kiss longing for his touch. It had been

a while since Michael and I made love. How I wondered why! I could feel myself quickly getting aroused by his caress and I wanted more of him. He then made love to me wildly and passionately and then it was over as quickly as it started. Michael seemed completely satisfied as he lay in my arms on the dining room floor. At that moment, I felt cheated and unfulfilled and I asked myself what just happened. Michael seemed to notice something and asked me if anything was wrong. I asked him if he loved me and he said of course I do and then he made love to me again. This time more tenderly than before. At that moment, I began to feel aroused and a while later, my passion and desire overtook me as I lay breathlessly in Michael's arms. We fell asleep immediately thereafter and when I woke up again, it was nearly 4:15 a.m. Michael was sound asleep like a baby. I smiled to myself and then got up to start my day. I felt great and was eager to start my day. I went upstairs to take a shower. I immediately got dressed and then went back downstairs to wake up Michael. He woke up immediately and we laughed about falling asleep on the dining room floor. Michael helped me clean up the plates and candles from the dining room table. He then kissed me tenderly and immediately went upstairs to take a shower. I made some coffee and bagels and sat down to a quiet moment.

I then thought about my 1PM lunch date with Tina. I was eagerly looking forward to seeing her. I was hoping that Tina had some interesting stories or interviews that I could use on my morning news broadcast. At that moment, I realized that it was nearly 5AM and I needed to leave immediately to get to work on time. As I was leaving the house, I yelled upstairs to Michael that I was leaving and that I would be home late. Michael told me that he would call me later and to have a good day.

I arrived at work at 5:30AM which I considered myself to be late since most of the time I arrive at the job at 5:15AM. However, it was worth it to have a romantic evening with Michael. I smiled again as I reviewed my itinerary for the day. Shortly after, I noticed that Brenda was in her office and I immediately went over to see her. She was on her computer sending out some emails. I sat down and asked her if she had any detailed information regarding Professor Messer. Brenda stated that she had been busy with writing a topic on the new restaurant and some other topics that Kyle had given her. I immediately told her that Kyle was given us until tomorrow to obtain some concrete information so that I could prepare a story for Monday morning's broadcast. Brenda was not impressed and immediately started complaining that she did not have enough time to complete all

of these assignments. I told her that it was important that she prioritize these assignments and at the moment, the Messer case was a high priority. Brenda told me that she would do a follow up by browsing the internet for any clues on Professor Messer. I told Brenda that I would be away from the office today from 1PM and that I should be back by 2:30PM. It was nearly 6AM and I prepared myself to go on the air with my co-anchor, Jack Ryan. I realized that we did not have any major stories to report which meant that my day would go smoothly.

At 12:45PM, I told Kyle that I was leaving to meet Tina Bates for lunch and that I might be gone for a while because I wanted to have a discussion with Tina to see if I am able to receive some new story lines. Kyle was shocked that I knew Tina and was very happy that I was meeting with her. He told me to take as long as I needed if it meant getting a new storyline. Tina was well known and most people admired her controversial style of presenting unusual stories on her radio broadcast. Kyle thought that it would be good for business if I could meet with Tina on a regular basis. I told him we must proceed one step at a time. He laughed and told me good luck.

I arrived at Tiffany's at exactly 1PM. Tina was already there waiting at the front entrance. Tina was wearing light blue crinkle-weave pants, a white cotton long sleeve v-neck blouse with a pair of black Sanita Professional Cabrio shoes. She looked lovely and I was happy to see her. I was wearing a red cotton knit long sleeve v-neck blouse with a pair of black slacks and black sandals. It was a sunny day and the temperature was around 72 degrees. Tina gave me a hug and we went inside to get a table. We were seated in a booth near the back of the restaurant where it was quiet. Tina asked me about Judy and we briefly chatted about her dinner party. Then we decided to order lunch. Tina ordered boneless chicken breast patties with spaghetti along with a Greek Salad. I ordered meatloaf with rice and green beans. We both had ginger ale to drink.

Tina and I briefly chatted about Judy and her new girlfriend. Then I asked Tina if she had any new story lines that I could use for my morning broadcast. She told me that she just finished a live broadcast with a woman who could not receive her deceased partner's pension or benefits from the police department because their marriage was not recognized in the eyes of the law. Tina asked me if I would like to do a live interview with this woman so that others can be aware of her story. I was a little taken aback by this and did not know how to respond. After a moment of silence, Tina

asked me if I had a problem doing this interview because this woman was a lesbian. I immediately answered no and Tina asked me what is the problem. I told her that I would have to discuss this matter with my manager Kyle and that I would need the paperwork and a copy of the interview for him to review. Tina agreed and told me that she had the paperwork and DVD of the interview in her car. She stated that this is the only major storyline that she has at the moment. We briefly spoke about our hectic schedules at work.

Tina then asked me about how many lesbian friends did I have and I told her that Judy was my only lesbian friend and we have been friends since we were five years old. Tina was impressed and told me about her life as a child and how she always realized that she was different even though her parents believed that it was a phase that she would eventually grow out of. She dated boys while she was in high school but nothing serious. Tina had her real first lesbian relationship when she went away to college. She said that it was the first time that she really felt alive and from that moment, she decided to live her life as it should be and without any regrets. I admired her and was intrigued by her story. She then told me about her relationship with her ex Cynthia. Tina had been with Cynthia for 13 years and she thought that they were very happy together until one day Cynthia came home and told her that they had grown apart and she was no longer in love with her and that she was moving within a week to California to be near her family. Tina was totally crushed and has not been in a relationship since that time. I felt sorry for her because I could clearly see her pain and I wondered why someone would hurt her so very badly. She was a wonderful person with a lot going for her.

I asked Tina about her parents and she told me that her Dad had died a few years ago from a stroke and her Mom had died shortly after her break up with Cynthia. Her Mom had died suddenly of a heart attack. Tina told me that she had a brother who was living in Chicago but they did not see each other that often. I could see the tears swelling up in her eyes as she spoke and at that moment, I reached out my hand to hers and I told her how much I admired her strength and that she did not have to go through this ordeal alone and how much I cared. Tina told me how much she appreciated my support. We then talked about some of our hobbies and I made Tina laugh with some of my crazy humor. We were having such a good time that I noticed that it was 2:30PM and I had to get back to work. Tina insisted on picking up the tab and then we promptly left the restaurant.

I walked with Tina to her car. She was driving a beautiful red mustang with black leather interior. Tina gave me a copy of her file and DVD from her interview. I thanked her and at that moment, Tina gave me a long hug and kissed me gently on the cheek. She asked me if we could meet again soon. I told her that I would stay in touch.

I arrived back to work at 3:00PM and Brenda was talking with Kyle in her office. I sat at my desk reviewing the paperwork that Tina gave me and at that moment Kyle came over to me with a smile and asked me how did everything go? I smiled back and told Kyle that Tina gave me an interesting storyline and that we should review this together. Kyle asked me to come into his office with the paperwork. Kyle decided that we should view the DVD first. The DVD was about a woman named Connie Spencer who was 42 years old. Connie had been in a 14 year relationship with Linda Stewart who was a police officer that recently died in the line of duty. They had two boys that were ages 9 and 12. Connie is a school teacher at the nearby middle school.

Connie discussed her relationship with Linda. She stated that they were very happy together and how her life permanently changed the day of Linda's murder. Linda and her partner Paul was dispatched to a nearby bank robbery that was in progress. At the scene, there were three men dressed in all black with hooded masks and loaded shotguns. Paul told Linda that he was going to call for back up. While Paul was calling for back up, the three men ran out of the bank carrying huge bags of money. Linda decided to go after them. She managed to shoot one of the robbers in the groin. As he lay on the ground bleeding, one of the other men shot Linda twice in the arm and then took off in a nearby car. The robber on the ground died a few minutes later. Immediately, Paul went over to Linda who was also on the ground trembling and bleeding profusely. Paul called for an Ambulance and told Linda to stay with him. Linda made it alive to the hospital, but died shortly after having surgery. Linda had lost a lot of blood due to the shot gun wounds and she caught a bad infection. Paul called Connie and met her at the hospital. Paul told Connie that Linda's last words to him was to tell Connie and the kids that I love them. Connie cried and screamed so much that she had to be given a sedative to calm her down. She stated that this was the worse day of her life. It was even harder to tell the children that Linda was gone.

Tina decided to ask Connie about Linda's Pension and Benefits. Connie stated that shortly after Linda's funeral, she met with the Chicago Police

Pension Board. Connie was devastated to learn that she would not be able to receive any of Linda's Pension or Benefits. Connie stated that she knew that their relationship was not legal in the state of Chicago, however, she believed that she would be able to receive Linda's Pension due to the fact that the Police Department and Board knew of their long term relationship. Linda had a Will and she stated in her Will that she wanted Connie and the children to receive her Pension and Benefits. The Will was dated and signed by two other parties other than Linda.

Kyle and I watched the entire interview which was 30 minutes long. Kyle then reviewed the paperwork that Tina gave us with more details on Connie's life with Linda. After a few minutes of contemplation, Kyle decided that I should do a live interview with Connie. Kyle knew what he was setting himself up for by asking me to get a storyline from Tina. He knew that this story would be very controversial and he might receive a lot of hate mail after the interview airs. We discussed this matter briefly, however, Kyle was touched by Connie's story and he wanted to help her as we did Mrs. Stroudsberg. Kyle asked me how I felt about doing such a controversial story. I told him that it was part of the job and territory. He agreed and expressed how grateful that he was for having me on his team. He told me that I was doing a great job and that I was a huge asset to the company. His expression brought tears to my eyes and I told him that I loved working for him. Kyle smiled and immediately changed the subject. This moment must have been hard for him. Kyle was not a man of many words or expression but I knew that he meant every word and I was grateful to hear him say so. Kyle also gave me an extension on obtaining more information regarding Professor Messer. He stated that I would probably need more time since I have this new storyline to prepare for.

When I left Kyle's office, I realized that it was nearly 4PM and I had to prepare for my evening broadcast. I noticed that one of our field journalist left a new itinerary on my desk for my evening broadcast. I quickly reviewed it and noticed that I did not have any major storyline and nothing new regarding Professor Messer. The rest of the day went by smoothly and after my evening broadcast, I decided to visit Brenda who was still in her office on the computer. I told Brenda that Kyle gave us more time to work on the Messer case which she was happy about. Brenda told me that she had been in her office all day on the computer looking for anything negative regarding Professor Messer, but she could not find anything on him. At that moment, Brenda questioned whether we had the right suspect. I told Brenda that we

should arrange to get one of our field journalists to follow Professor Messer. This might be the only way to get a solid lead on him. Brenda decided that we should give this a try and that she will work on this and update me later on the details. I was happy to see that Brenda was showing an interest in this case instead of focusing on the new restaurant in town.

During my conversation with Brenda, my cell phone rang and when I picked it up, Michael was on the other end. I was very happy to hear his voice. Michael told me that he had a busy day and he was on his way home. He asked me if I would be working late and I told him not tonight. Michael told me that he was going to stop at the grocery store on his way home to pick up a few items.

After I hung up with Michael, it was 6:15PM and I told Brenda that I would be going home shortly. Brenda left before I did and I decided to call Tina to give her the good news. Tina did not answer and I left her a message that Kyle approved the interview and I needed to meet with her soon to go over the details of the interview.

As I was driving home, Judy called me and we chatted about how well her new relationship was going. Then we talked about Tina. I told Judy that I had lunch with Tina today and that Kyle approved of my interview with Connie. Judy was excited! She asked me if I told Tina. I told her that I left a message for Tina and that she should be calling me soon. Judy was happy that Tina and I were quickly becoming friends. She told me that all of us should get together again soon. I laughed and told her that Michael would have a fit about all of this. Judy told me again what she thought of Michael and that real love is not controlling. Judy asked me if we could get together on Saturday for lunch at her house and I told her that I would come over at noon.

I arrived home at 7PM and Michael was on the telephone with his Dad again. I kissed him and went upstairs to take a shower and to change my clothes. After I got out of the shower, Michael told me that he had to go to his parents' house this weekend because his father was having slight chest pains and he could not mow the lawn and take care of the yard work. Therefore, he had to go and help them. I asked Michael if his father went to the hospital and he said that he was going to take him on Friday. I told Michael that his mother should take him if he is having chest pains. Michael got annoyed and told me that his mother cannot do everything because she is not in the best of health. I said that this sounds serious and his father should be taken to the hospital immediately. Michael told me that his father

will be fine until he gets there. I asked him why must he be responsible to do everything for them all the time. Michael became angry and told me that they are his parents and he is all that they have and it is his responsibility to make sure that they are taken care of. He told me to stop being selfish and that I should be more understanding of his situation with his parents. I sighed and asked him when will he be coming back home. Michael told me that he might have to take off a few days from work in order to make sure that his father is okay. He will call me when he gets to his parents house to let me know more. I asked him when will he be leaving and he told me tomorrow morning. I was so upset with Michael that we argued about this situation for almost an hour. I decided to prepare dinner while Michael went upstairs to pack a suitcase.

While I was making a quick dinner, Tina called and told me that she got my message and that she would be happy to meet with me over the weekend to go over the details. Tina stated that she had spoken to Connie and she agreed to do the interview. I told Tina that I would meet with her tomorrow after work and that I would call her from work. Tina agreed and asked me if I was okay. I told her that I was fine and she told me that I sounded upset about something. I told her that Michael was leaving town again to visit with his parents in Delaware and that I was upset about it because they always call him for everything and that lately, Michael has been spending more and more time at his parents house than at work or with me. Tina asked me if I tried to talk to him calmly about what I was feeling and I said that Michael seemed obsessed with taking care of his parents before anything else. Regardless of what I say, Michael does not seem to care and that this time, I was getting tired of it. Tina asked me if I wanted to go with Michael and I told her that his parents are constantly complaining about the fact that Michael and I have not gotten married yet and how we are living in sin. I told her that I cannot handle listening to this lecture from them all of the time and that I preferred to stay away as much as possible. Tina seemed shocked by my statement and told me that she would give anything to be able to see or talk to her parents again. I told Tina that I understood because my parents divorced when I was seven years old and my father died a few years ago and I missed him very much. My mother lives with my sister in Indiana and I visit with them mostly during the holiday time. However, we talk a lot of the telephone. I then told Tina that Michael's parents never really liked me and they are always finding something wrong with our relationship and I found this at times to be

unbearable and I am not good at pretending that everything is okay. Tina understood and told me that things will get better if I give it time and then we changed the subject back to work.

After I hung up with Tina, I asked myself why I felt so comfortable with her. I was surprised at myself for sharing my problems about Michael with Tina who was almost like a stranger to me. I have never done this with anyone except Judy who is like a sister to me. I began to think about how easy it was for me to talk with Tina and to realize that we have a lot in common. She made me feel calmer about things.

At that moment, Michael came downstairs with his suitcase packed. He put his suitcase near the front door and then he sat down with me at the kitchen table to eat dinner. Michael told me that he wished that I would be more understanding about his situation with his parents and that it was his obligation as their only child to look after them. He promised me that things will get better in the future. I calmly explained to Michael that I felt that everyone and everything else came first in our relationship. I felt that I was always the last person that he thought about and it seems like my feelings do not matter. I was tired of playing second fiddler to everything and everyone else. I even felt like his work came before me. I told Michael that we have not had a vacation together in over two years and before last night, we had not made love in months. This was a lot for me to handle all at once. Again, Michael promised me that things will change for the better if I would learn to be patient. We then ate dinner in silence. After dinner, Michael kissed me on the cheek and told me that he was going to bed.

I sat at the kitchen table thinking about what Michael had just said to me and I got angry. I decided to clean up the kitchen and then I told myself that I was not going to worry about Michael for the moment. I had to focus on work and to prepare myself for an interview with Connie Spencer. I briefly went online to read some articles about Connie's situation with the Chicago Police Pension Board and then I decided to go to bed. When I went upstairs, Michael was already in bed and asleep. I quietly got in bed beside him and went to sleep.

CHAPTER 5

The next morning, I got up at 4AM and Michael was still asleep. I sat on the edge of the bed thinking about what I was going to wear to work. I decided to wear my blue slacks with my white cotton long sleeve v-neck blouse and blue sandals. This was my favorite outfit and it made me feel sexy. As I got into the shower, Michael woke up and asked to join me in the shower. I told him that I was in a hurry and did not have much time to get to work. The truth of the matter was that I was still angry with Michael and I just wanted to be alone for the moment.

Michael quickly got the message and immediately got up to ask me if I was still upset with him. When I did not respond, Michael came into the bathroom and told me that he did not want to leave with me being angry with him. I told him that I was okay and that I need to concentrate on work because I had a hectic schedule ahead of me. As I got out of the shower, Michael put his arms around me and kissed my neck very tenderly. For the first time since I known him, I pushed him away from me and told him that I was not in the mood. Michael was in shock and he told me that my behavior towards him was unacceptable. I immediately left the bathroom, got dressed and went downstairs. I was so upset with Michael that I decided to pick up breakfast on my way to work. I told Michael that I was leaving and I told him to have a safe trip to his parents' house.

On the way to work, I stopped at a nearby Dunkin Donuts and picked up a large coffee with an egg, bacon and cheese flat bread sandwich. I arrived at work at 5AM and Kyle was in his office on the computer. I noticed that Brenda was also in her office and she was on the telephone talking to someone regarding the Professor Messer story.

I immediately sat at my desk and drank my coffee and ate my flat bread

sandwich. I decided to start my day by searching for any emails on my computer regarding the Messer case. I only had one exciting email. It was an email from Mrs. Stroudsberg thanking me for interviewing her and helping her to stay in her apartment. She stated that everything had worked out in her favor and she expressed how grateful that she was for my help. Mrs. Stroudsberg stated that she had sent me a bouquet of flowers to express her gratitude for my help. I was immediately overwhelmed with emotion. This is why I love my job so much. I enjoy giving back and helping those who could no longer help themselves.

At that moment, Brenda came over to me and she told me that she had spoken to a few of Professor Messer's students and no one had anything negative to say about him and she could not find anything negative in his past. Professor Messer did not have a police record of any kind and he had never been in trouble with the law. He was married with three adult children and he had been married to the same woman for 25 years. Brenda told me that she had nothing on Professor Messer and she believed that he might not be the man that we are searching for. I was very disappointed because this left us back at square one and with no new leads, the date rapist would surely strike again. It was only a matter of time. I asked Brenda if she shared this information with Kyle and she told me that she had not spoken with him as of yet. I told Brenda that Kyle will be truly disappointed about this situation and he might put us out in the field for a longer time until we get him a solid lead on this case. Brenda agreed that we should discuss this matter together with Kyle in his office.

Kyle was just ending a telephone call when we got to his office. Brenda told Kyle all about the situation with the Professor Messer case as I stood by listening. Kyle was disappointed and told us that we must come up with a solid lead before the date rapist strike again. Kyle wanted to review all of the information and details that Dawn Baker had given to us on Professor Messer. Kyle also wanted us to talk to the victim again. He wanted Brenda and I to pay her a visit. The victim's name was Susan Taylor. Kyle wanted us to try to get a detailed description from Susan and ask her if she would be willing to look at some pictures. Kyle told us that we should call Susan and ask to meet with her next week. Brenda and I agreed and then I told Kyle that I would be meeting with Tina today to go over the details of the interview with Connie. Kyle stated that I should meet with Tina and Connie together and that I should call Tina right away to ask her to set up

a meeting with Connie as well. I agreed and then Kyle told me to review my itinerary before calling Tina and going on the air.

As I sat and reviewed my itinerary, I noticed that I had to report on a story regarding a missing nine year old girl who had recently been found by the police. The girl had been missing for over a month and she was found yesterday in an abandon house near the railroad tracks. She was found physically unharmed and tied to a chair. The little girl was weak and somewhat malnourished. The police found a man running near the tracks and he was eventually caught and brought in for questioning. This was my major story for the day.

After reviewing my itinerary, I had 15 minutes before going on the air. I decided to call Tina. Tina answered the phone after the second ring and she sounded very happy to hear from me. I told Tina that Kyle wanted me to meet with her and Connie together so that we could go over the details of the interview. Tina asked me if we could meet at her house this evening. I agreed to meet her at 7:30PM at her house. Michael was out of town and I did not have to rush home. This opportunity would give me a chance to spend some time getting to know Connie and preparing her for our interview. I told Tina that I would see her later because I was preparing to go on the air.

I went on the air at 6AM and broadcasted the story about the nine year old girl that was found alive. Shortly after my broadcast, I went into Brenda's office to see if she was working on any interesting topics. Brenda told me that she had called Susan Taylor and she had agreed to meet with us on Tuesday afternoon. I was very happy about this and Brenda felt confident that we would get a solid lead on this date rape case. Brenda then asked me about my interview with Connie and I told her that I was going to meet with Tina and Connie later today. At that moment, Brenda asked me if I was okay and I told her that I was okay and that I was just thinking about Michael because he had left this morning to go to Delaware to visit his parents. I told Brenda that Michael's father was complaining about having chest pains and he went to help him. Brenda gave me a hug and reassured me that everything is going to be fine. Brenda had a way of always looking at the positive side of things. I was grateful for her positive words. It made me feel better.

For the rest of the day, I worked with one of our field journalist to see if she had any current major story lines. We discussed a few topics for the next two hours and then I went into my office to do some research on the

Internet. After about an hour, Kyle came into my office to tell me that we were going to have a department meeting to go over some company statistics. Everyone met in Kyle's office and the meeting lasted for about an hour. Kyle mainly addressed our field journalists about obtaining information for story lines within a timely manner and then he went over the company statistics with the entire department.

After the department meeting, the rest of the day went by rather smoothly. Shortly after I did the 5PM broadcast, I told Kyle that I was headed home so that I could get ready to meet Tina and Connie. I was meeting Tina and Connie at 7:30PM and I wanted to get there on time. I arrived home at 6:40PM and I noticed that I did not have any messages from Michael. I decided to call Michael at his parents' house. His mother promptly answered the phone and told me that she and Michael were on their way to take his father to the hospital. I asked her if she thought that he was going to be okay. She said that he was feeling much better since Michael came home. However, they still wanted to take him to the hospital to make sure that he was okay. I asked to speak with Michael and she said that Michael told her to tell me that he will call me later. I said okay and hung up the phone in shock. I was hurt and angry all at the same time. I immediately sat down at the kitchen table and started to cry. After about five minutes, I looked at the time and decided to take a shower to get ready to go to Tina's house. After I got out of the shower, I decided to wear my white linen slacks with my red print linen tunic and my red sandals.

I decided to call Judy before going to Tina's house. When Judy answered the phone, I immediately told her what happened with me and Michael. Judy asked me if I had been crying and I told her how upset that I was with Michael. Judy did not seem surprised by Michael's actions. She told me that I needed a break from Michael and how disappointed that she was with him for not appreciating what he has in me. Judy told me that I was a good person and she always felt that I deserve so much better than Michael and how she felt that he took advantage of me. Judy then asked me if I wanted her to come over for a while and I told her that I was on my way to Tina's house. Judy then told me that she would call me later.

It was now 7:15PM and I decided to leave to go to Tina's house. For some reason, I was feeling much better after crying over Michael and I was looking forward to seeing Tina and Connie. This was going to be not only a very controversial interview for me, but a huge story that would bring a lot

of publicity and coverage. I told myself that this story was something that I needed to keep my mind off of my problems with Michael.

I arrived at Tina's house at exactly 7:30PM. As I got out of my car, I felt nervous about meeting Connie and especially seeing Tina. I suspected that Tina might have a slight crush on me and I was not sure how I felt about this. Regardless of this matter, I was there to prepare for my interview with Connie and it was important for me as a news journalist to stay focus on Connie's interview.

Tina answered the door promptly and gave me a hug. She was happy to see me. Connie was already there sitting at the kitchen table. Tina took me to the kitchen and introduced me to Connie. Connie was a tall, attractive woman with blonde hair and green eyes. She looked much younger than 47. She appeared to be somewhat nervous and pensive. Connie had a lot of paperwork regarding her case and many pictures of Linda and their two children. I was quite impressed with Connie. Her story was touching and heart wrenching and she appeared to be a very good mother who loved her children and Linda. She told me that Linda was the love of her life and that they had a Civil Union a few years ago where they met in New York. Her only regret was that Linda did not live to see Gay Marriage become legal in New York so that they could get married.

After hearing Connie's story, I explained to her that once her story is broadcast, she might be subjected to hate mail and threats by narrow minded individuals who dislike her lifestyle and I asked her if she was ready for this. Connie stated that she has already endured enough hatred to last her a life time and why should this interview be any different. Connie then told me about Linda's funeral. She stated that she and Linda's family agreed to have her funeral service at the Metropolitan Church that they attended regularly with their children. When the Limousine pulled up in front of the church, there were several hundred people near the church holding up signs of hatred. One angry woman was holding up a sign that said "This is what God does to sinners." Another sign said "Sin and abomination leads to death." Connie then stated that these people were screaming and using so many words of hatred that the kids started to cry and they were afraid to get out of the limousine to go inside the church. The police had to escort us in and out of the church. Connie stated that the children will never forget this incident. It was bad enough that they lost their mother and now they had to deal with an angry mob of people telling them that their parents are an abomination for loving them and each other. Connie said that she was

doing this interview for Linda and their children. She also wanted to send a message to society that it is not okay to verbally or physically abuse two consenting adults of the same sex for loving each other and that we should have the same rights and benefits as any heterosexual couple. Connie stated that it was important for her to be true to herself and the memory of Linda. This interview was for Linda and the kids.

I listened intently to Connie and I felt compassion for her and the children. I talked with Connie for two hours about the interview, her paperwork and about Linda's benefits that she was trying to collect from the police department. I told Connie that we should get together again briefly on Monday to go over any last minute details for the interview. We were broadcasting live on Tuesday afternoon. It was now around 9:30PM and Connie said that she had to leave to pick up her kids from her mother's house. I gave her a hug and told her how brave and courageous that she was to do this interview. I said that Linda would have been proud of her.

As Connie drove away, I told Tina that I was leaving to go home. Tina asked me if Michael was home and I told her that he was still in Delaware visiting with his parents. Tina then asked me why was I in a rush to get home to an empty house. I told her that it had been a long day and I was tired. Tina asked me to stay and have a drink with her. I hesitated for a moment until Tina told me that she was a good listener and she thought that I needed someone to talk to. I agreed to stay. Tina and I sat at the kitchen table talking. She asked me if I wanted a glass of red wine. She then asked me if I wanted to sit in the living room. As I followed Tina into the living room, she put on a CD with a combination of light jazz and some soft music by Anita Baker.

I had a glass of red wine and some Triscuits with cheese. I told Tina all about my problems with Michael and she listened intently. At that moment, I started crying and Tina held me gently in her arms. She gently rubbed my arms and shoulders. I looked up at her and she told me that it was too late for me to go home and that I should stay. I agreed to stay and Tina continued to hold me in her arms. As Tina held me in her arms, I began to feel something that I had never felt before in my life. I looked up at her and smiled and she kissed me so tenderly that I began to melt into her arms. I then pulled Tina close to me and kissed her passionately. Tina put her tongue inside of my mouth and began to kiss me harder. As she began kissing my neck very tenderly, my body felt like a hot explosion that suddenly erupted like a volcano. At that moment, she started to unbutton

my shirt and I immediately stopped her. I told her that I cannot do this and then I got up to go home. Tina begged me not to go home because it was late. She told me that I could spend the night and sleep in one of her spare bedrooms. I reluctantly agreed to stay and Tina told me that she did not want me to think that she was trying to take advantage of me. She told me how much she cares for me. I told Tina that what I need the most right now is a friend. I asked Tina to stay with me and she slept beside me holding me in her arms as we slept peacefully.

The next morning I woke up at 9AM and Tina was sleeping soundly next to me. I immediately got up and went to the nearby bathroom. I closed the door behind me and looked into the mirror and asked myself "Who am I?" I did not seem to recognize myself and at that moment, I felt frightened. I then thought about Michael and the fact that he never called me back. I felt confused and guilty. For the first time in my life, I felt so helpless regarding my situation with Michael and I thought about my telephone conversation with Judy and about what she had said to me about Michael. I immediately washed my face and brushed my teeth and then I went back into the bedroom.

Tina was sitting at the edge of the bed with a smile that would light up a Christmas tree. She asked me if I slept okay and I said that I slept very peacefully. Tina then told me that she was going to make breakfast for us. She asked me what I wanted for breakfast and I told her that I just wanted coffee with milk and sugar with a bagel and cream cheese. While Tina went downstairs to make breakfast, I decided to check my phone and I noticed a missed call from Michael and a voice message from Judy. Michael did not leave me a voice message. I immediately called his cell phone and when he answered, he was annoyed with me. He asked me why I did not answer my phone when he called and I told him that I was up late last night preparing to do a live interview at work on Tuesday. Michael seemed uninterested and I asked him how was his father doing. He stated that the doctor told him that his father had some sort of anxiety attack and he was giving him a prescription and wanted him to rest for about a week without doing any sort of yard work, etc. Michael told me that he had called his boss and asked to take a week off due to his father's illness so that he could help his mother around the house. I became enraged and I immediately lashed out at Michael. I told him that he did not need to stay at his parents house for a week and that if he did not come home within the next day or so, I might not be there. Michael told me that I was being selfish and if I was not home

when he returned, that he would find someone who would be there for him. I was in shock and I told Michael to burn in hell and I hung up the phone.

At that moment, Tina told me that breakfast was done and I went downstairs. Tina had coffee, bagels and eggs on the table along with some freshly cut oranges. When I sat down at the kitchen table, I began to cry and Tina put her arms around me and asked me what was wrong. I told her that Michael was going to stay at his parents house for another week and that we had a huge fight and I think that our relationship might be over.

At that moment, Judy called. She told me that she was worried about me when I did not call her back and that she decided to drive over to my house and she was surprised that I was not home. I told her that I had spent the night at Tina's house because I was tired and that it was too late for me to drive home. Judy was delighted and she started to joke with me about Tina. I smiled and told Judy that we were having breakfast and that I would call her when I get home.

As I ate my breakfast, I told Tina that I appreciated how understanding and comforting that she was to me last night. I expressed to her that I was touched by the fact that she did not take advantage of my vulnerability. Tina seemed touched by this and she told me that she heard me arguing on the telephone with Michael and that she thought that he was the one being selfish. She told me that I deserve someone who would treat me with respect and put me on a pedestal. I reached out and touched her hand and said thank you. We finished breakfast and I told Tina that I had to go home because I needed some time to be alone to figure out what I wanted to do. Tina asked me if she could see me again and I told her that I would call her.

As I drove home, I felt anger and disappointment about Michael's decision to stay in Delaware and I asked myself "What was the turning point in our relationship that brought us to this moment?" "Why did I allow Tina to kiss me?" One thing that I knew for sure is that if Michael decided to stay with his parents, then our relationship would never be the same again. I felt like Michael was always putting me last when it came to his parents. I told myself that he was right about me being selfish to a certain point. I could not stop thinking about how things would be if I married Michael and had children. Would he still put his parents before me and the kids? I knew deep down that I could not handle this. Is this the reason why I never said yes to his proposal? For the first time in my life, I questioned Michael's love for me and why I was so vulnerable to his every needs. At that moment, the tears began to run down my cheek and I felt inconsolable.

Judy was sitting on my doorstep as I pulled into the driveway and I was very happy to see her. As I got out of my car, I ran up to Judy and hugged her very tightly as I cried non stop. Judy helped me into the house and asked me what happened. I told her about my telephone conversation with Michael and that he was going to be staying a week with his parents and that our relationship might be over. Judy was shocked that Michael was staying another week not only away from me, but away from his job. Michael loved his job and rarely took a lot of time off.

I then told Judy about what happened with me and Tina and she was shocked that I responded to Tina's kiss instead of rejecting her. I told Judy that for the first time in my life that I felt confused and alone and I did not know what to do. Judy told me to take one day at a time to figure things out and that things will work out the way that they are suppose to. I took a great deal of comfort in that. Judy asked me how did I feel about Tina and I told her that I had feelings for her which frightened me. Maybe I had feelings for her from the first time that I met her. I was not sure when it happened, but the feelings were there whether I wanted them to be or not. I also still had feelings for Michael even though he was acting like an ass hole. Judy was right! I needed time to think and sort things out. Judy said that she would spend the night and I was grateful to her because I did not want to be alone.

Judy ordered chinese food for us from the nearby Chinese Restaurant. I was in no mood to make dinner for myself or for Judy. We watched TV and talked until midnight. I told Judy that I was going to sleep on the pull out sofa and that I had to meet with Tina during the afternoon. Judy slept on the couch next to me and we did not wake up until 9:30AM.

I quickly made breakfast and some coffee for me and Judy. While we were eating, Judy asked me if I wanted her to go with me to Tina's house and I told her that this is something that I must do alone. I told her that I needed to be alone for about an hour before I go to Tina's house because I need to think and figure things out. Judy hugged me and told me that she understood how I felt and that she would stand behind me completely with the decision that I make regarding this situation. Then Judy asked me was I going to call Michael again and I told her that I will try to talk with him before I leave but I was not hopeful that Michael would come home before the week was up. Judy hugged me once again and told me to call her immediately if I need her and I promised her that I would.

CHAPTER 6

After Judy left, I took a shower and got dressed. I decided to go for a walk at the nearby park and I sat on a bench near the pond. I decided to call my mother and I was happy that she was home because I needed to talk to her. I immediately told her what happened with Michael and I also told her about Tina. My mother listened intently and then asked me why did I not give Michael an answer when he proposed to me. I thought about it for a moment and then I said that I felt that Michael was not ready to be a husband and I wanted to wait until he was able to give more time to me instead of his parents. My mother said that she also felt that Michael was not ready but he felt some obligation to me after being together for 7 years and the fact that the Pastor was questioning us about getting married did not make it easy as well. My mother told me that I was very subservient to Michael for a long time and I had to ask myself if this is what I want because marriage would not change who he is. I thought about what my mother said and I started to cry and then my mother asked me about Tina.

The unusual thing is that my mother was very open minded about most things even though we grew up in the Church and they always taught us that being gay or lesbian was wrong. Even though I did not speak with my mother every day or week, whenever we talked it always helped me feel better and come to a decision about things. We were close in our own unusual way. My mother was one who believed tremendously in boundaries and she felt that if most people followed them, they would have less relationship problems. I told my mother that Michael has not learned this rule yet. Then I told her that I felt something for Tina and how much it frightened me and she told me to follow my heart and ask myself if being with her makes me happy. If so, I should slowly pursue this regardless of what anyone else

thought including her and my Dad. Her last piece of advice to me is to make sure that I can live with whatever choice I decided to make.

I wiped away my tears and thanked my mother for the advice and then I told her to watch my morning broadcast on Tuesday and that I would call her in a few days to get together with her for lunch. I hung up with my mother and walked to my car thinking about our conversation and I felt much better as I drove to Tina's house. I called Tina and told her that I was on my way to her house and I told her that we needed to talk.

I arrived at Tina's house at 12:15PM and she was happy to see me and somewhat concerned about what I had to say to her. As I went into the kitchen with Tina, she offered me a glass of red wine as I sat down at the table. I told Tina that I was taking a break from Michael until he can commit to our relationship. I took Tina's hand into mine and I thanked her for being supportive. Tina asked me if I felt guilty about kissing her the other night and I told her that I am okay with it and then I leaned over and kissed her tenderly and Tina looked surprised. I then asked Tina to hold me in her arms as she did the other night. Tina held me in her arms so gently and as she kissed me, my entire body felt like it was on fire and at that moment, I could not resist her. Tina took me upstairs to her bedroom as she continued to kissed me very passionately. She then kissed my neck so gently that my entire body was throbbing with excitement. As Tina undressed me, I looked into her eyes and I told her that I could not resist her anymore then Tina began to make love to me and my body felt like an explosion as I screamed in ecstasy and pulled her close to me. We laid in each others arms breathlessly as I held her tight. Tina asked me if I was okay and I told her I never felt better and she smiled at me as she caressed my hair. We fell asleep in each others arms and we slept until 5PM. I got up and told Tina that I had to go home and she said please don't go and she pulled me into her arms and we made love again. Then Tina asked me if I wanted to go out for dinner and I told her yes because we needed to go over the details of Connie's interview and sign paperwork.

As I got up to take a shower, Tina asked me if she could join me and I felt a little shy about this but she convinced me that it would be fun. We showered together for 15 minutes and then we got dressed for dinner. We took Tina's car and decided to go to one of Tina's favorite restaurants called "The Lavender." The Lavender was a very nice restaurant that was near the water and they served mostly seafood. Tina and I got a table outside near the water. Tina ordered filet mignon with a garlic butter sauce, mashed

potatoes, mixed vegetables and a glass of white wine. I ordered salmon, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables and a glass of red wine. The waiter brought us a white glass candle and we listened to the soft music playing in the background and we talked about Connie and the interview until the waiter brought us our food.

As we ate our dinner, Tina asked me if I was going to call Michael and I told her that I will talk to him when he returns from Delaware. She asked me what was I planning to do about us and I told her that she must give me time to work out my situation with Michael and to be patient with me. Tina took my hand into hers and said that she would do whatever I need her to in order to make things easier for me. I said that I had a lot to handle including the live interview on Tuesday morning. I knew that I will be getting a lot of feedback from angry anti-gay conservatives and groups for doing this interview with Connie and probably from the Police Department but I was ready to take this chance. Connie deserved to have as many people as possible in her corner and her story needed to be heard and I would make sure that this happens.

Tina was quite impressed with how strongly I felt about Connie's story. Tina signed some paperwork that was required for the interview and I told her that I would be meeting again with Connie after work tomorrow.

After dinner, Tina and I went for a walk at the beach. We held hands and kissed for a while and I told Tina that I really had to go home to get ready for work tomorrow. I thanked her for the romantic dinner. We drove back to her house and I jumped into my car and drove home.

On my drive home, Michael called me and he asked me if we could talk. He told me that he felt bad about our fight and that he would like to talk to me when he gets home. I told him that we did have to talk. He asked me if I wanted to speak with his mother and I told him that I was driving home and I would speak with her another time. Michael asked me where I was and I told him that I had just finish having dinner with Tina and I was on my way home to prepare for tomorrow. Michael asked me about the interview with Connie and I told him that the interview was live on Tuesday morning and for the first time since I had known him, he told me that he did not think that it was a good idea for me to do this interview. I told him that it was part of my job and I felt that Connie's story needed to be heard.

Michael got angry and told me to put the interview on hold until he gets home so that we can talk about this. I laughed and told him to go to hell and I hung up on him. For the first time in my life, I felt empowered and not

even Michael was going to take this feeling away from me. A few minutes later, Michael called again and this time I just let it go to voice mail.

I arrived home at 8:30PM and after putting away all of my paperwork and getting into my pajamas, I called Judy. I told her about spending the night at Tina's house and the argument with Michael. I also told Judy that I spoke to my mother before going to Tina's house and she helped me to focus on what I need to do. I told Judy that when Michael returned from Delaware that I was going to tell him that I need to take a break from our relationship for a while and that I plan to move out. I told her that I spent the night with Tina and that it would not be fair to her or myself to continue to live with Michael and I could not imagine myself sleeping with the both of them. I explained to her that I tried to talk to Michael about our problems but he refuse to listen and I did not plan to be with Tina it is something that just happened. Judy asked me how I felt about Tina and I told her that I have never felt like this in my entire life and I would like to explore this new relationship with her. I told Judy that I was very nervous about my situation with Tina and how new all of this was to me.

Judy told me to take one day at a time and that things will work out for the best. I was worried about what will happen when Michael returned from his parents house. I also told Judy that Michael had told me that I could not do the interview with Connie. Judy told me that Michael is becoming more and more controlling and I should get away from him as soon as possible. For the first time, I agreed with Judy about Michael and I asked her where did we go wrong? Judy kept telling me not to blame myself because this is not my fault and that it was about time that I stood up to Michael. We talked a little longer and I told Judy that I was going to bed. As I hung up with Judy, I realized that my life with Michael has been changed forever.

CHAPTER 7

I arrived at work at 5:15AM and I sat down at my desk with a cup of coffee reading my itinerary for the day. At that moment, Kyle came over to me and asked me about my meeting with Connie and Tina. I told him that everything is in order and I gave him all of the signed paperwork in reference to Connie's interview. Kyle seemed very pleased with the paperwork and he asked me was I ready for the interview. I told him that I would be ready once I go over some last minute details with Connie today and that I would be meeting Connie for lunch today at 1PM. Kyle said that we would go on the air live tomorrow morning at 8AM and the interview would last for an hour.

The rest of the day went by smoothly and at 12:30PM, I left work to meet Connie at Tiffany's for lunch. I arrived at Tiffany's at 12:55PM and Connie was already waiting in her car. We decided to sit at the booth so that we would have more room to go over the additional paperwork.

Connie told me that she was a little nervous about the interview and the negative attention that it might attract. However, she was determined for her story to be heard and she hopes that her story will help other lesbian and gay couples who might be experiencing similar situations to come forward. I told Connie not to worry about this and to stay focus on the interview. I asked her if she had any additional comments to add to the interview and if anything new developed in her case and she told me no. We then went over the details of the interview and I told her that we would be on the air for an hour. I told Connie to be at my office at 7:30AM tomorrow morning. Connie told me that Tina would be coming with her to show her support and that after the interview, she would go with Tina to the radio station.

Tina wanted Connie to follow up the live interview with a short live radio interview.

After going over the details, we decided to order lunch. I ordered a turkey and cheese sandwich and a glass of cranberry juice. Connie ordered a roast beef sandwich with a glass of ice tea. We talked for a while and then I told Connie that I had to get back to the office. Once again, I told Connie that it was important for her to be at my office at 7:30AM so that we can get her make up done and to be ready to go on the air. Connie agreed to be there and we both drove back to our jobs.

I arrived back at the office around 2:15PM and I noticed that Brenda was in Kyle's office with the door closed. I reviewed my script for my 5PM broadcast. Kyle called me on the phone to come into his office. As I went into Kyle's office, he closed the door behind me and he told me to have a seat. I knew that something big was happening because Kyle never closes his door unless something big is taking place. Kyle told me that one of our field journalist who followed Professor Messer was not able to get any leads on him and that he seems like a very devoted husband and father with no prior felonies or any problems with the law. However, Kyle said that Brenda had another lead and it was from Dean Edward Phillips from the University. Brenda stated that she spoke to Dean Phillips on the telephone and he had something amazing to share with us regarding Professor Messer's background. Brenda and Kyle refuse to share this information with me until after I did the interview with Connie. I was told that it was a shocker and for now, I must stay focus on this interview. I asked Kyle why did he call me into his office regarding this story on Professor Messer if he was not going to share it with me. Kyle stated that he wanted to tell me about this story because I would have to devote the next few days to work with Brenda in the field. Kyle told me that this story was big because we now have a solid, concrete lead on the date rapist. Kyle wanted me to do the morning broadcast for the next three days and he would get someone to fill in for my evening broadcast. He wanted me to work with Brenda in the field for the next three evening as a Field Journalist to assist her with obtaining information from several leads.

After my brief meeting with Kyle, I chatted with my co-anchor Jack Ryan about Kyle's decision to put me back in the field. Jack told me that he thought it was a good idea and he believed that this was a compliment from Kyle because he felt that I was a great Journalist and he needed to use my expertise in the field. Jack thought that I should see this as a positive

sign from Kyle that he believes in me and thinks that I am a good news journalist. I was touched by what Jack said because I never saw myself this way and it made me feel very good about working for Kyle.

After this conversation, it was time for me and Jack to do our live morning broadcast. I reported on my prior story regarding the lost Calico cat. She was found over the weekend at an elderly neighbor's home. The cat who was called "Babycakes" was roaming around the neighborhood and one of the neighbors thought she was a stray and started feeding her. She eventually brought the cat to live in her home. The owners were grateful that she was found and offered the woman a \$500.00 reward for taking good care of her.

Wow! Another happy ending! I loved broadcasting stories with happy endings. Jack then reported on a story regarding a gas station robbery. The rest of the day went by quickly. After our evening broadcast, I went into Kyle's office to briefly discussed tomorrow's interview. Kyle told me that he will be in the office tomorrow at 5AM and he wanted me there by 5:15AM. I told him that Tina was going to accompany Connie to the station tomorrow and Kyle said that would be fine. I then told Kyle that I was leaving for the day.

As I got inside my car, my cell phone was ringing and it was Michael. He told me that he would be back home on Friday and that he missed me and wanted to talk to me about working out our problems. I told him that I wanted to talk to him too. For some reason, I felt very bold and I told him that I wanted to take a break from our relationship for a while. Michael seemed surprised and he told me that we can work things out and I told him that he had too many anger and control issues and I needed a break and then I told him that I would see him on Friday and I hung up the phone. I then wiped away the tears that was rolling down my cheeks as I pulled up to the driveway and I wondered if this was a chapter that was coming to an end in my life.

CHAPTER 8

The next morning I woke up at 4AM and took a shower. I decided that I would wear my favorite black slacks with my silky white v neck cashmere blouse and black pumps. I went downstairs and made a pot of coffee and ate a bagel with butter and sat for a few minutes pondering over the interview and my decision regarding my relationship with Michael. It was now 4:45AM and I decided to head out to the station.

Judy called me on my way to work and asked me if I was okay. I told her that I was nervous about the interview and then I told her that I spoke with Michael and I told him that I wanted to separate. Judy was shocked! I told her that Michael did not take this well and we had a lot to talk about when he returns on Friday. I told her for now, I must focus on this interview with Connie. Judy told me that she took the day off from work and she is getting together with some of her friends to watch the interview and that she was very proud of me for doing the interview. I told Judy thanks and that I will speak with her later. Judy asked me if I could come over to her house later this evening. I told her that I would get back to her later today.

I arrived at work at 5:05AM and Kyle was in his office on the phone. I sat at my desk preparing for my morning news broad cast. After reading my morning itinerary, I was glad that I did not have any major stories to report. My mind was still racing about Connie's interview. I felt nervous and my stomach felt jittery. Kyle came over to me and he must have sensed that I was nervous because he told me not to worry that everything will turn out fine as long as I stay focus. I thanked him for his words of encouragement and then I met with Jack briefly before we did our morning broadcast.

After the morning broadcast, I went into Brenda's office to talk with her about the Messer case. Brenda told me that we had an appointment with

Dean Phillips on Wednesday at 5:30PM and that we should get together tomorrow afternoon so that she can update me on the case. Brenda then wished me luck with my interview with Connie. She praised me on being able to do such a controversial interview and then she told me that is why Kyle considered me to be an asset to the company because of my flexibility. I was touched by what Brenda said and I gave her a big hug and told her how nervous I was. She told me that I would be fine.

As I walked out of Brenda's office, my office phone was ringing and Connie was on the line telling me that she and Tina would be at my office within the next 20 minutes. We chatted briefly about the interview and then I told Connie that I would meet her and Tina downstairs.

Connie and Tina showed up at 7:25AM and I was already downstairs waiting for them. This was the first time that I have seen Tina again since I spent the night with her and it felt a little awkward for me. Connie and Tina gave me a hug and I took them upstairs to one of our offices so that the make up artist could put make up on Connie for the camera. While Connie was getting made up for the interview, Tina and I chatted briefly about our weekend together. I told Tina that I had a lot to think about and that Michael would be returning from Delaware on Friday. I told her that Michael called me and he wants to work out our relationship. For a moment, Tina looked sad and asked me what did I want to do. I told Tina that I want to move out and separate from Michael for a while until I figure things out. I told her that things have not been going good with us for quite some time now and I needed a break. Tina then asked me about us and I said that I wanted to take things slow. Tina reminded me of the fact that we already took things to the next level by making love and she wanted to know if I would continue to see her. I told her that I wanted to continue to see her but I must first deal with my situation with Michael and maybe we should cool things down for a while. By this time, Connie was ready to do the interview. It was 7:50AM and we had to ten minutes before we went on the air. Kyle took us into the room where we would be airing the interview and I told Connie to relax and stay focus.

We went on the air at exactly 8AM. I began the interview by introducing Connie and by telling our viewers about her prior radio interview. I then asked Connie to tell us about her partner and children. Connie was a little nervous in the beginning, but later on she seemed to be comfortable. She talked about how she met Linda and how she was the love of her life and how she gave birth to their children by means of artificial insemination.

Linda legally adopted both children at birth. Linda came from a family of police officers and she took pride and joy in becoming a police officer. Connie stated that they had a great relationship with each other and with their children.

Connie stated that Linda had a Will in which she left money for her and the children. Linda also stated in her Will that she wanted Connie to receive her benefits if anything should happen to her. Connie's attorney stated that the Will is proof that Linda wanted Connie to receive her Pension and Benefits.

Connie spoke about the importance of tolerance and awareness in this country. She stated that it should be mandatory for our school system to teach our children about the many differences of our society and to stop the violence and hate. Connie wanted the police department to recognize the solid relationship between her and Linda and to approve payments of Linda's benefits to her and the children.

After the interview, to my surprise, Kyle wanted me to do another 30 minute interview with Tina and I told him that we did not prepare for this. He told me that I should briefly discuss with Tina Connie's interview and how it will make a difference. Kyle had already spoken to Tina about this and she had agreed to do this brief interview.

I was really nervous about interviewing Tina. I was praying that she did not mention anything about our affair on the air. Tina was very excited about the interview. She told me about how she got started working as a Gay and Lesbian Right's Advocate and why she is so passionate about Gay and Lesbian Rights. Tina stated that Connie should continue to fight for these benefits which Tina feels that she is entitled to and she hopes that Connie's interview will help other couples who are facing similar issues. In conclusion, Tina stated that the only reason that Connie was denied Linda's benefits is because they are a lesbian couple and if they were a heterosexual couple living together, the outcome would be different. She stated that we must continue to fight to have the same rights as everyone else has in this country.

My interview with Connie was unexpected and it did not finish until 9:45AM. All of us went into Kyle's office after the interviews. He thanked Connie and Tina for being courageous in the face of adversity. Kyle told Connie that he hopes that something positive will come out of these interviews. Kyle ordered breakfast for everyone and we spent the next 35 minutes chatting and eating breakfast. Everyone left Kyle's office at

10:30AM. I walked Connie and Tina downstairs to the front door and I gave Connie a big hug and she was very grateful to me for allowing her to tell her story. I told her to be strong and to never give up. Connie left and I was left standing beside Tina. Tina smiled at me and asked me if I was nervous about interviewing her. I told her yes because I did not know what to expect from her. Tina told me that she would never say or do anything to hurt me. She told me that Kyle asked her to do this brief interview in support of Connie. She told me that I could trust her and that I will need a friend more than anything else when Michael returns from Delaware. Tina believed that Michael will not take any of this very well and I will need someone to lean on. I told her that I was not sure how I was going to handle this but I knew that I had to get away from Michael for a while. Tina stated that she did not want to be the reason for my break up with Michael and she did not feel good about coming between us. I reassured her that she did not come between us and that Michael and I were having problems for quite some time now and it has recently reached a boiling point.

I told her that I did not feel bad about what happened between us and that I wished the circumstances of it all had been different. Tina understood and she told me to call her if I need to talk. As she walked away, I grabbed her and gave her a hug and told her to be patient with me and to give me time to work things out. She smiled and I told her that I would call her later.

As I went back upstairs, Judy called me on my cell phone to tell me how much she enjoyed the interviews. She asked me why I did not tell her that I was interviewing Tina. I told her that it was Kyle's idea and it was sort of a last minute suggestion. Judy praised me on doing such a great job on a controversial subject and she asked me if I was comfortable with this. I told her that I am glad that I did this interview and most of all, I am very proud of Connie for coming forward with her story. Judy told me she had several friends over at her house and they watched the interviews together. She taped the interviews so that they can watch them again.

Judy asked me if I thought that Michael would be watching the interviews and I said that if he did watch them, he would be very upset that I agreed to do them. I told Judy that it does not matter how Michael feels at this point and that I was making decisions that was right for me and not him. Judy was impressed by my answer and she agreed with me. We chatted briefly and then I told her that I had to get back to work. I told her that we will talk again later.

Kyle was waiting for me at my desk when I returned. He was very happy about the interviews and he was expecting a lot of coverage on this story. I asked him if we had any responses to the story as of yet. Kyle stated that he received two emails from a conservative group stating that we made a mistake by covering this story. He also stated that we made a lot of religious organizations angry and so far, our ratings were very high.

For the first time since I worked for Kyle, I told him that I was going to take a 30 minute break and I went to the cafeteria where I had some coffee and a snack. I needed to be alone for a little while to reflect over every thing that has been happening. It was all happening so very quickly and I needed to take a breath. At that moment, I noticed that Michael was calling me on my cell phone and I chose to mute it. I was guessing that he must have watched the interviews from his parents house and he wanted to talk to me about it. I was not in the mood to discuss the interviews with him. We had more important things to talk about when he returned. I decided not to speak with him anymore until he returned on Friday. Wow! Things were really changing in my life and I was nervous. Would I be able to tell Michael that I was leaving? Should I tell Michael about my affair with Tina? I had a lot to think about.

I decided to give my mother a call and I ask her if we could get together. My Mom told me that she can meet me on Wednesday and I asked her if she could spend the night and that I would take her back on Thursday evening. She said that she would be happy to stay because we had a lot of catching up to do. Yes, it had been quite some time since I seen my mother. Michael and my Mom did not get along very well and because of this, she chose to keep her distance which really made me feel bad because we used to be so close. After I hung up with my mother, I realized how much I miss and need her in my life and I felt bad that I let Michael come between us.

I was feeling a lot better after talking to my mother. It would be nice to finally get to spend some time with her. I had her all to myself and Michael could not do anything to stop this anymore. Why did I let him control my life for so long? Did it take Tina to make me see things more clearly? Whatever the reason, I was looking forward to seeing my mother.

It was now 12PM and I decided to surf my computer for emails and literature. Brenda sent me an email asking me to come to her office and I had a few emails from colleagues congratulating me on the interviews. When I went into Brenda's office, she told me that I did a great job with the interviews and then she told me something that almost made me fall out

of my seat. Brenda told me that we would be meeting with Dean Phillips to go over a telephone conversation that Brenda had with him. In the telephone conversation, Dean Phillips told Brenda that Professor Messer has an identical twin brother name David and he lives in the Downtown Chicago area. It was a strong possibility that David Messer was the date rapist from the information that Brenda had received on him. Brenda stated that we need to talk to Dean Phillips today. Brenda suggested that we meet with him at 2:30PM and this will give me time to get back to the station to do my 5PM broadcast. I agreed to go with Brenda as long as I was back at the station on time.

For the rest of the day until 2:00PM, I decided to meet with one of the Field Journalist to see if she had any hot topics. She only had one story regarding a well known football player who was arrested for driving drunk. I asked her why do we always get these types of stories? I wanted a story that was more fulfilling. A story that would make a difference. This is why I enjoyed doing the interview with Connie and with Mrs. Stroudsberg who was in jeopardy of losing her rent stabilized apartment. These stories made a difference and I was a part of the difference. I wanted more stories like these.

CHAPTER 9

Brenda and I left the office at 2:05PM and we took Brenda's car to meet Dean Phillips at the college. We arrived at Dean Phillip's office at 2:30PM and his secretary told us that he will be with us shortly. After ten minutes, Professor Phillips came out of his office and told us to come in. His office was very spacious with a burnished cherry wood table and chairs with a black wrap around leather couch.

He closed his door and told his secretary to hold all of his calls for the next hour. Brenda started the conversation by telling Dean Phillips about some of the date rapist victims and how he rapes them. Dean Phillips told us that Professor Messer's brother David had a long past history of petty crimes and spending a lot of time in and out of prison. His last stay in prison was about a year ago for domestic abuse. He spent six months in prison for violating a restraining order that his ex girlfriend filed against him for stalking and threatening her life. Dean Phillips was sure that the date rapist was David. He told us that David had always been a troubled person all of his life and he spoke about how Jacob Messer was quite different than his troubled brother. I asked the Dean if he knew where we could find David and he told us that David does a lot of odd jobs around town and that he lives in a small studio apartment in a seedy part of town. I told Dean Phillips about Dawn's description of the rapist and he told us that he was sure that David is the man that we are looking for.

Brenda told Dean Phillips that we were working very closely with one of the detectives from the police department that was handling this case. Brenda asked him would he be willing to give a statement to the detective about David. Dean Phillips agreed to do so as long as he was able to remain anonymous. We assured him that his identity will be protected. We spent an

hour in half speaking with Dean Phillips and it was now 4PM and I had to get back to the station for my 5PM broadcast. We took all of Dean Phillips contact information and told him that we would be in touch.

When we left the college, I was in total shock and Brenda was sure that we had the identity of the date rapist. Especially since Dean Phillips was willing to sign a statement regarding this matter. Brenda stated that Dawn gave a description of Professor Messer's brother thinking that it was him. Unknown to her that he had a twin brother. I told Brenda that Kyle will be happy with this information. Kyle would disclose this information to the police detective that we were closely working with regarding this case. The detective was very anxious to solve this case and bring the rapist to justice and so was everyone else.

We arrived back at the office at 4:35PM and Brenda immediately went into Kyle's office while I met with my co-anchor Jack Ryan to go over our 5PM broadcast. We had nothing major to report and I was happy that the evening ended smoothly.

After my evening broadcast, Kyle told me that we would be having a meeting tomorrow in his office around 11AM to discuss the information that Dean Phillips gave us regarding the date rapist. Kyle was going to meet with Detective Schwartz tonight to go over the information that we received and he wanted us in his office at 11AM sharp so that he can tell Brenda and me what the next step in this case would be. Kyle told us that we did a good job working together in obtaining this information and he told us to have a good night.

I left the office at 6:30PM and I was exhausted from having a full and exciting day. I decided to go directly home. When I arrived home, I ate a turkey and cheese sandwich, a small salad and a bottle of seltzer. I was so exhausted that I was in bed by 8:15PM and I did not wake up until my alarm went off at 4:15AM the next morning. I got up and went downstairs to make a pot of coffee. As I sat drinking my coffee, I thought about my mother and how happy that I was to have her stay with me overnight. I decided to send Kyle an email requesting a fill-in for my 5PM broadcast. I know that Kyle did not like short notices, but I really wanted to spend some time with my mother because I did not know when I would see her again and I wanted to spend as much time with her as possible.

After I sent Kyle an email, I finished my coffee and went upstairs to take a shower. By the time that I finished my shower and got dressed, it was 4:50AM and I had to hurry if I wanted to get to the office on time. I wanted

to be there by 5:15AM. I arrived at the office by 5:20AM and I immediately went into Kyle's office. He asked me if everything was okay because it was unlike me to make last minute request for time off. I told him that my mother was visiting and I had not seen her in a while and I needed time to spend with her. Kyle was very understanding about this matter and he told me that he would fine someone to fill in for my 5PM broadcast. I thanked him and returned to my desk to review my itinerary for the day. I had a story about a man who raised \$100,000.00 to help shelter a homeless man and to get him medical care. My co-anchor Jack Ryan was following a story about a tornado that recently destroyed a small town in Kentucky. The town had been without power for days and many of their roads had been closed.

After my morning broadcast, I decided to check my emails and I had an email from Tina. She told me to listen to her radio broadcast with Connie that was airing on the radio at noon. Her interview with Connie was a follow up to my live interview with her. I decided to call Tina and we talked about the interview and then I told her that my mother was coming to visit. Tina seemed very happy and said that she would like to meet my mother one day. I told Tina that I hope my mother would come back again to visit real soon. We chatted for a while and then I told Tina that I would talk to her soon.

I decided to call my mother to see what time her bus would arrive in town. My mother told me that her bus would arrive at 6PM and I told her that I would be there on time. After I spoke to my mother, I realized that Brenda and I had a meeting with Kyle in his office this morning. I went to see if Brenda was in her office and she was on the phone and she waved to me to come in and sit down. After Brenda got off the phone, she told me that Kyle had briefly told her that David Messer was picked up for questioning in the date rapes. She told me that Kyle would go over this in detail when we meet with him in his office. I told Brenda that this case seems to be unraveling so very quickly. She agreed and stated that she believe that we have the right person this time around.

At 11:30AM, Brenda and I went into Kyle's office and he told us that Detective Schwartz had brought David Messer in for questioning. A victim was brought in and she positively identified David Messer as the person who she went out on a date with and who raped her. Kyle stated that Detective Schwartz was having a DNA test done on David Messer and they were holding him in a holding cell until the results of the DNA test came back from the lab. Kyle stated that the lab would have the results within the next

24 hours and that we would not know anything else until the test results are back from the lab. I asked Kyle where did they find David Messer and Kyle stated that he was picked up outside of his apartment late last night. Kyle stated that if the DNA test results come back inconclusive or negative, then Detective Schwartz would have to immediately release David Messer because he would not have any substantial evidence to hold him on. Brenda asked Kyle what will happen if the test results come back positive. Kyle stated that the Prosecutor will try to get an indictment against David Messer and his victim would testify against him in court. I stated that if this should happen, then this case would receive a lot of publicity. Kyle stated that he would allow Brenda and I to cover this story and trial since we were the ones working on this case.

Kyle then spoke to us about the amount of hate emails that he received regarding Connie's interview. On the other hand, Brenda told us that she received several emails from several Lesbian and Gay Organizations thanking us for covering this story and how this story inspired other couples to come forward with their own stories. Brenda replied to these emails and she stated that she gave me the praise and recognition for covering this story and that she forwarded these emails to me. I was very grateful and appreciative for her recognition of me. Kyle praised me for doing a good job and he told me to keep up the good work.

After my meeting with Kyle, I went downstairs to my car so that I could listen to Tina's 12PM broadcast interview with Connie. The live broadcast lasted for 45 minutes and I was very impressed with the way Tina conducted this interview and for the first time, I acknowledged how good that she was at her job. Tina had a passion for her work which made her a pro at what she did.

After listening to Tina's interview, I went back to my desk and Jack Ryan was waiting for me. I told him that I was leaving early and that Kyle was going to have someone cover the 5PM broadcast with him. I rarely left work early and Jack asked me if I was sick and I told him that my mother was coming for a visit and I had to pick her up at the bus terminal today. Jack told me to have a good time and that he would see me tomorrow. I decided to chat briefly with Brenda about the Messer case. I told Brenda to call me on my cell phone if anything new develops with this case. I was very interested in finding out the DNA results and Brenda stated that she would call me right away.

For the rest of the day, I browsed through my emails and researched

information regarding editorials and current community stories. I left the office at 4PM and I decided to call Judy while I was on my way to the bus terminal to pick up my mother. The ride to the bus terminal would take me 45 minutes. Judy was happy to hear from me and she asked me if anything unusual happened since my interview with Connie. I told her nothing major, just a few hate emails and it was nothing that I could not handle. She laughed and told me that I was a good sport. I told Judy that I was on my way to pick up my mother at the bus terminal and that she was going to spend the night with me. I told Judy how much that I missed spending time with her and I was very happy that she was coming to visit me. Judy stated that once I separate from Michael, I can restore my relationship with my mother and other friends. I agreed with her. I told Judy that I was a fool to allow Michael to come between me and my mother and that I wanted to make things right between us. Judy told me that mothers love us unconditionally regardless of what we do. I smiled and told her that she was a good friend to me. Judy then asked me what was I going to do about my relationship with Tina and if I was going to tell Michael about Tina. I told Judy that I wanted to slow things down with Tina and that I decided not to tell Michael about Tina because it would add to our problems. Judy agreed with me and I told her that I was almost at the bus terminal and that I would call her tomorrow.

CHAPTER 10

I arrived at the bus terminal at 5PM and I decided to go to the nearby store to get a cup of coffee and the newspaper. As I returned to my car, my cell phone was ringing and I immediately picked it up without looking at the number. Michael was on the other end telling me that he had called a few times and left messages for me. I told Michael that I was very busy with work and that I did not have the time to return his call. He told me he watched my interview with Connie and he thought that it was a bad decision on my part to do this interview and that it might bring negative consequences to me and the news station which could eventually affect my career. I told Michael that I believed that Connie's story should have been heard regardless of how anyone felt about her relationship with Linda. It was the right thing to do! Michael did not agree with me and he told me that I must ask him about these things before making a decision. I laughed and told him that he was crazy. He asked me why was I not on the air and I told him that I was at the bus terminal picking up my mother and that she was going to be spending the night with me.

Michael was not happy about this and he told me so. I told him that I love my mother very much and I rarely get to see her or spend time with her and it did not matter to me anymore how he felt about her or my relationship with her. I lashed out at Michael by telling him that he spends more time worrying about his parents rather than spending time with me and working on our relationship. Michael got angry and told me that I was being selfish and I told him that I did not want to talk to him anymore until he returned on Friday and then I hung up on him. I was determined that my mother's visit was going to be a good and positive one. I was going through a lot and I really needed her right now.

The bus arrived at the station at 6:05 PM and I waited at the gate entrance for my mother. I was so excited like a school girl. After five minutes passed by, I finally saw my mother and we hugged like it had been years. I carried her suitcase back to the car and I asked her if she wanted to stop to get something to eat. She asked me if I had any food at home and I said yes. My mother decided to cook dinner at home for me. I have not had a home cooked meal in a very long time. We got back to my house at 7PM and my mother complimented me on how nice the garden looked.

My mother decided to cook the sirloin steak that I had in the refrigerator along with mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables and salad. I opened a bottle of Riunite Red Wine which was my mother's favorite wine. We talked over soft music playing in the background. My mother asked me if I had spoken to Michael and I told her that he called me just before her bus arrived. I told my mother that I had made a decision to separate from Michael and that I would be telling him about this when he returns from Delaware on Friday. I told her that I had no idea how Michael would react to my decision, but I could no longer go on this way. I told my mother how much that I miss her and Dad and that I should never let anyone or anything come between us and I told her how sorry that I was about this. My mother told me not to blame myself and that she was glad that I had came to a decision about Michael. I told her that I could no longer put up with Michael control and anger issues and that I hated the fact that he was always putting his parents problems before our relationship. I told my mother that I had tried to talk to Michael about my feelings several times, but he did not seem to care about my feelings. I thanked my mother for helping me to see my situation clearly with Michael.

I told my mother that I had strong feelings for Tina and that I did not want to tell Michael about my affair with Tina. My mother agreed that I should not tell Michael and she also told me that it would be wrong for me to lead Tina on and that I should decide if this is something that I want to pursue. Otherwise, I should be very honest with Tina before things go any further. My mother told me that she watched my interview with Connie and Tina. She told me that I looked nervous when I was interviewing Tina. I told her that I was nervous and that I really do care deeply for Tina. However, I do not want anyone to know about my relationship with her because I was not sure if I could handle this right now. My mother urged me to tell Tina how I feel.

We then talked about Dad and Mom's friends. My mother told me that

she goes to play Bingo every week at the Church with some of her friends. It is a time where she can have fun and socialize with some of her friends. She stated that Dad can drive her crazy sometimes now that he is retired and home all day. We talked about hair salons and laughed about bad perms.

I told my mother how much I missed her and how I wished that she could visit with me for a longer period of time. My mother told me that I should take a mini vacation and come home for a few days and visit with Dad and some of my old high school friends. I told her that I would think about doing this. My mother stated that I rarely take a vacation anyway and it was time that I did so. We laughed and I told her that I would give it some serious thought.

My mother then told me that all she ever wanted for me is to be happy and if Michael was not making me happy, then I should not feel guilty about leaving him especially if I tried several times to tell him how I feel. She thought that Michael was very selfish and into himself too much. She stated that a real man would never try to keep his girlfriend or wife from her family. He was a selfish man and my mother wanted me to get away from him immediately.

I then told my mother what was going on at work. We talked about the date rapist and the leads that I had on the case. My mother admitted that she watches me everyday on the air and she has watched every live interview that I have done. She was so proud of me! We hugged and talked and laughed until late in the night.

We finally went to sleep after midnight and when my alarm went off the next morning at 4AM, I felt like I had been asleep for only an hour. My mother was still asleep and I got up slowly and went downstairs to make some coffee. I decided to make some scrambled eggs, toast and bacon for my Mom. I heard my mother go to the bathroom and I told her to come downstairs to eat breakfast with me.

We ate breakfast and talked about my high school and college days. My mother told me that she would be supportive of any decision that I make concerning Michael and Tina. I knew that this was hard for my mother to say considering the fact that she does not think much of Michael. I told my mother that I decided that it would be best for me to separate from Michael and it was something that I had to tell him in person. I had no idea how Michael would react to my decision, but my mind was made up.

After eating breakfast, I told my mother that I would come back home around 12PM to take her to lunch and anything else that she wanted to

do before going back home. Then I noticed that it was 4:40AM and I had to take a shower and get dress for work. I left my house at 5:10AM and I called Kyle on my cell phone to tell him that I would be in the office shortly. I was rarely late. Kyle was very good about this because he knew that my mother was in town. Kyle asked me if I was going to be ready for my 6AM broadcast and I told him that I was almost at the office and I would be prepared to go on the air.

I arrived at the office at 5:35AM and Kyle was smiling at me. He asked me how fast was I driving to make it in the office so quickly. I laughed and sat down at my desk to review my schedule for the day. I had to report on a story about a puppy that was abandoned and left near a railroad station. The puppy appeared to be ill and in pain. A woman had found the puppy near the tracks as she was driving by and she took the puppy to a nearby animal shelter. The owner of this puppy was no where to be found. A picture was taken of the puppy and the police was asking for anyone to call if they knew the owner or any information on who abandoned the puppy. The puppy was a small brown male Dachshund and very cute.

After my morning broadcast, I went into Kyle's office and I told him that I was interested in adopting this dog if the owner did not come forward to claim her. Kyle was shocked and he asked me if I was serious about doing this. I said that this poor innocent dog needs a good home and I was willing to give him one. I love animals! However, I was not able to have any because Michael was allergic to them and Kyle knew this and that it was he was quite surprised that I wanted this dog. Kyle asked about Michael's allergies and I told him that this situation was being resolved. I asked Kyle how long had the dog been at the animal shelter and he told me for 2 days and if no one claims him by the end of the day, he will be put up for adoption. I asked Kyle for the telephone number and address to the animal shelter. I do not know why, but I felt that this dog was going to be my buddy and that we would be a source of comfort to one another. I had to try to adopt this dog. Once I got a feeling about something, I must see it through to the end. I was going to do everything that I could to adopt this dog.

I went back to my desk and called the animal shelter. I spoke with a woman named Eileen. She told me that the dog would be put up for adoption if no one claims him by the end of the day. I asked her what did I need to do if I wanted to adopt him. Eileen told me that I would have to fill out some paperwork and be able to provide a good home for this dog. I asked her if I could come to the shelter to speak with her in person.

I told Kyle that I was leaving the office for a while to visit the animal shelter. I arrived at the animal shelter at 9AM and I introduced myself to Eileen. Eileen stated that she has worked at the shelter for nine years and that she has never seen a case of animal neglect to this degree. I asked to see the dog and she took me in the back area where there were all sorts of dogs and cats. They were beautiful and my heart went out to each and everyone of them. I wished that I could help them all! Even though I knew that this was impossible.

The Dachshund was in a large cage with another dog that looked like a poodle. Eileen opened the cage and brought the Dachshund over to me and I immediately fell in love with him. He was a beautiful dog! I held him for a while. In spite of his situation, he was a very friendly dog. He licked my face and seem to love being held.

At that moment, I decided that this was going to be my dog. I asked Eileen if the dog had been seen by the Vet and she told me that the dog was checked by the Vet yesterday. However, he has not had his shots yet. I told Eileen that I would take care of all of the expenses related to this dog. Eileen stated that she had to wait until the end of the day. I explained to Eileen who I was and I told her that I could provide a good home for this dog and even if the owner did show up, this dog was abandoned which is considered neglectful and the dog was sick. I told Eileen that I was willing to give the shelter a large donation if she held the dog for me and if I was allowed to pick him up later. Eileen told me that this was not necessary. I insisted and I wrote a check to the shelter for \$500.00. I also gave Eileen \$300.00 cash and I asked her to have the dog vaccinated by the end of the day so that I could take him home. Eileen reluctantly agreed to do so. I reassured her that she was doing the best thing in the world for this dog. I also decided to name the dog Lucky. I chose this name because I felt he was lucky to be alive and I was lucky to have him. He would be my miracle dog! I left the shelter feeling like a million dollars as I drove back to work. I knew that I had done something amazing!

As I headed back to work, I called my mother and told her about Lucky. She laughed and told me that I always got what I wanted. I said but this time, it is something wonderful. I told her all about Lucky and what had happened to him. My mother told me that I was doing a wonderful thing for this dog. I told her that I would be home soon and to be ready to go to lunch.

When I got back to the office, I immediately told Kyle and Brenda

about Lucky. Kyle smiled and told me that I had a heart of gold and that he was happy that I was taking this dog because he knew that I would give him a good home. It was now 10:30AM and I decided to talk with my co-anchor, Jack Ryan about the evening broadcast. He told me that we did not have any major stories to cover as of yet. I then asked Kyle if he could have someone to fill in for me again to broadcast the evening news because I had to pick up Lucky from the shelter and I had to drive my mother back to the bus terminal. Kyle agreed as long as I promised to continue to work on the Messer case.

CHAPTER 11

I left the office at 11:30AM to pick up my mother at the house. I loved the fact that my mother was always prompt with everything in life. She was sitting patiently and waiting for me when I arrived at the house.

After I helped my mother put her suitcase in the car, we drove to Tiffany to eat lunch. My mother loved roast beef and she had a roast beef sandwich, french fries and a glass of cranberry juice. I had a turkey and cheese sandwich with a glass of seltzer and a cup of coffee. My mother loved eating at Tiffany. She loved the spacious booths and the food.

My mother asked me what was I going to tell Michael about the dog. I told my mother that Lucky was my dog and I would be looking for a small 1 bedroom apartment for me and Lucky. Michael would not have to worry about him. Lucky was completely my responsibility. I also told my mother that I was thinking about staying with Judy or at a hotel until I find a apartment. However, I was not sure if any of the hotels in my area would allow me to have Lucky there. My mother said that I could come home for a while and I told her that the drive to work would be too far for me to travel every morning. She said that I had to decide something immediately due to the fact that Michael is allergic to animals. I told her to let me worry about this! She laughed and told me that I sometimes behave like my father.

I told my mother that from now on, that I would never allow anyone or anything to interfere with our relationship and she was touched by my words. I told her how much that I missed and loved her and daddy. We both made a pact to see each other on a regular basis. I felt so happy about this!

We left the restaurant at 2:30PM and we decided to go shopping. My mother wanted to pick up a few pairs of pants and some earrings. We finished shopping at 4PM and I laughed and told my mother how I hate

shopping. I asked her if she wanted to come with me to pick up Lucky and she said she would love to meet him. I stated that we have to leave now because the shelter closes at 6PM and her bus was leaving to take her back home at 6PM.

We arrived at the shelter around 4:30PM and I introduced Eileen to my mother. They chatted for a while and then I asked Eileen if Lucky was ready to go. She told me that the owner never contacted them or the police. Therefore, Lucky was free to go with me and that Lucky had just returned from the Vet. I gave Eileen a big hug and told her that she had done something wonderful for Lucky and not to worry about anything. Eileen was worried about bending the rules and I told her that in this case, it was for a good cause. We hugged again and Eileen went to get Lucky.

When Eileen returned with Lucky, he was very happy to see me. He was wagging his tail and jumping around. My mother acknowledged what a beautiful dog that he was. I held Lucky in my arms and Eileen gave me a dog collar and a copy of Lucky's vaccination shots along with the name of the Vet. Eileen asked me to fill out and sign the necessary paperwork for adopting Lucky. We were there with Eileen until 5:25PM and I told my mother that we had to hurry to get her to the bus on time. The bus would be arriving at the bus depot at exactly 6PM and I had to make sure that my mother was there on time because it was the last bus of the day. Another bus would not arrive until tomorrow morning.

My mother played with Lucky as we drove to the bus depot. We arrived at the bus terminal at exactly 6PM and my mother had five minutes to get to the bus. I quickly parked in the bus terminal parking lot and Lucky and I ran with my mother to the bus. We were really cutting it close. The bus driver was about to get back on the bus and close the door as we arrived and my mother was lucky that she did not miss it. The bus driver helped my mother with her suitcase and to get on the bus. Lucky and I waved goodbye to my mother as the bus pulled out of the station. I told my mom that I would call her later. Lucky and I stayed at the terminal until we could no longer see the bus.

As I got back to my car, I put Lucky in the back seat. He did not want to stay back there and he kept jumping in the passenger seat in the front. He was trying to lick my face as I was driving. I was really nervous because I forgot to purchase a kennel for him and I was afraid that the cops would pull me over. I decided to pull over and put Lucky in a seat belt in order to keep him from jumping around while I was driving. This seemed to work

for a while. As I pulled into my driveway, Lucky started barking and at that moment, I realized that I did not have any dog food for Lucky. I decided to quickly go inside the house to get a small plastic bag and then I took Lucky for a quick walk. I cleaned up Lucky's mess and then I put him back inside the car as we headed to Shoprite to purchase dog food. Shoprite was crowded and I grabbed a shopping cart to quickly put Lucky inside of it along with his collar which I was holding on to just in case he decided to jump around. I brought two big bags of dog food and some toys for Lucky to play with. I also brought a small dog bed for Lucky to sleep in.

We were in Shoprite for 40 minutes before I got back to my car and Lucky seemed to be getting a little restless. I decided to drive Lucky to the lake near my house and sitting by the water seemed to calm him down. I then took out one of the toy dog bones for him to chew on as I called Judy. I told Judy all about Lucky and that my mother loves him. I told her that I brought Lucky home and that he officially belongs to me. Judy was impressed and asked me how would I explain this to Michael. I asked Judy if I could not stay at a hotel with Lucky, if we could stay at her house. Judy lived in a nice two bedroom apartment near the beach. I love the fact that even though Judy lived alone, she always had two bedrooms and she stated that she deliberately got a two bedroom apartment just in case any of her friends or family had to stay with her due to an emergency.

Judy immediately told me that Lucky and I could stay with her as long as I needed to which I was grateful for. She told me as long as I cleaned up after Lucky, she was fine with me staying with her. We both laughed and I told her how much that I appreciated this and that she was a true friend to me and that she was indispensable. Judy asked me what time Michael was returning tomorrow and I told her that I was not sure. I told her that I would return home briefly tomorrow after my morning broadcast to deal with Michael. Judy told me to call her if I need her. I thanked her and told her that I had to go and take care of Lucky.

As I pulled into the driveway, I was shocked to see that Michael's car was already there. By the time that I got out of the car, Lucky was barking and I was trying to keep him quiet. Michael heard him and immediately came out into the driveway. For a moment, Michael was very happy to see me until he noticed Lucky sitting in the passenger seat of my car. Michael asked me where did Lucky come from and I told him that I adopted him and that he was my dog. Michael got upset and told me that I was being mean because I knew that he was allergic to all animals and that I did this

to spite him. I told Michael that we needed to go inside and talk. He told me that I was not coming inside the house with Lucky and I was appalled by his strong reaction. Michael was speaking at the top of his voice and I told him that I would not talk to him unless he lowered his voice. Michael became enraged and told me that I have changed in the worst way and that he no longer knew who I was. I told him that I have changed for the better and that he has changed for the worse and I could no longer be with him. I told Michael that I wanted to move out and that I would be doing so immediately.

Michael grabbed my arm and told me that I was not going anywhere. I saw the rage flaring in his eyes and for the first time, I was frightened. I asked Michael to let go of me Michael immediately released my arm and took his rage out on Lucky. Lucky was barking and Michael asked me to shut him up and to get him out of here. Before I could say or do anything, Michael opened the passenger side of my car and grabbed Lucky and smacked him hard. He then told Lucky to shut up. That was the permanent ending to our relationship. I watched in horror and shock! I could not believe my eyes! I had never expected that Michael could do something like this. I knew that he had a temper but not a violent side. Lucky was on the ground whimpering. I immediately picked him up and put him back inside my car. I went up to Michael and for the first time in my life, I smacked him and called him a coward. To my surprise, Michael smacked me back with such great force that I fell to the ground and when I got up, I noticed that my nose was bleeding. I told Michael that if he ever hit me again that I would have him arrested. I told him that our relationship was over and that I never want to see him again. Michael immediately apologized and begged me to come with him to therapy so that we can work out our relationship. He promised to do this immediately.

I told Michael that I do not care anymore and that he is the one who needs help and that I was moving out immediately. Michael told me that I could not leave him. I called Judy on my cell phone and I told her that I needed her to come over immediately and that it was an emergency. Judy asked me what happened and I told her that I would explain everything to her once she gets here. I asked her if she could bring some of her friends with her because I would be moving some of my things out of the house tonight. Judy knew that something was wrong and that I was serious! She told me that she would be at my house within the next 35 minutes.

After I got off the phone with Judy, Michael told me that I was not going

anywhere. Lucky was still sitting in the car whimpering and I told Michael that I needed to go inside the get him some water. Michael told me that we could bring Lucky inside together and how sorry that he was for hitting him. I told him that I would go inside with him to get Lucky some water. I did not want Lucky any where near Michael. If anyone would be taking a risk, it would be me for Lucky's sake.

As I went inside with Michael, he locked the door behind me and told me that I must listen to him. He told me that he could not lose me and that I must agree to work out my problems with him. I told Michael that he needed some help with his anger and now his abusive behavior. Michael kept repeating to me that he could not lose me and I started to feel fearful. I told Michael that I had to take care of Lucky and I told him that Lucky was found near the railroad tracks and he was not only neglected but had been sick and I really needed to help him right now.

Michael allowed me to take some water out to Lucky who was still in the car whimpering. Lucky quickly drank the water and I held him close to my chest. After a while, he stopped whimpering and by this time, Judy and two of her friends had pulled up behind my car. I was so happy to see them! Judy got out of the car and introduced me to her friends. She introduced me to her friend Monica and Rosa. They had been long time loyal friends of Judy.

Judy asked me what happened and I told her that Michael had returned early and he was enraged about the dog. I told her that Michael hit Lucky with a closed fist and I immediately smacked him and he smacked me back and I fell down with a bloody nose. Judy got very upset and told me that I should call the police to press charges against Michael. Before I could say anything, my next door neighbor had beat me to the punch. She actually heard all of the screaming and she called the police immediately and they arrived on the premises shortly after Judy did.

Two officers showed up and I told the entire story. However, after speaking with Michael, they told me that they could not arrest Michael for hitting me because I actually hit him first and that he could press charges against me for attacking him. I told the officers that I was defending my dog and that Michael had hit him. The officers examined Lucky and did not notice any bruises on him. Michael also told the officers that he did not touch Lucky and that he only told me that Lucky could not stay her because he was allergic to him and that is when I lost my temper and hit him.

For the first time in my life, I became enraged with Michael for telling

this lie. I began to see exactly what type of person Michael has become and I did not want to be around him any longer. He was a monster, a fiend! As Michael glared at me, I asked the officers to escort me inside so that I could pack some of my clothing because I was leaving and I did not trust being alone with Michael. One officer escorted me inside while the other one stayed outside talking with Michael. Judy and Monica came inside to help me, while Rosa stayed outside holding Lucky. I was packed a ready to go within the next hour. Judy and Monica had helped me put my things in the car. Judy asked Monica to drive her car while she rode with me in my car. Michael refuse to press charges against me which was the least that he could do since this entire situation was his fault and he had lied about everything. I asked the officer if I could get another escort to pick up the rest of my things over the weekend. The officer gave me his card and number and told me to come to the police station and to ask for him and he would personally escort me back to the premises to collect the rest of my things. The officer told me that he believed me and that he thought that Michael was lying but he had no way of proving this. The officers filled out their report and left.

Michael went back in the house and slammed the door. Judy stood watching in amazement! I told Judy to get in the car and she told me that she would drive. I sat in the passenger seat holding Lucky and checking him for any bruises. He seemed okay and I was happy about this. I hugged him and promised him that he would never have to deal with something like this ever again. Judy was very angry about what Michael did to me and to Lucky and she had no problem voicing how she felt. Judy said the the officers should have locked up that son of a bitch and she could not understand the logic behind the explanation that the officers gave to us. She said that it was plain to see that my nose was swollen and bloody and that Michael was a bastard and should have been locked up immediately. I told Judy that it was over and that I did not want to talk about Micheal anymore. She told me that she thought that the situation was far from being over and that I should be extremely careful of coming into contact with Michael.

When we arrived at Judy's house, I immediately called my mother and told her what Michael had done and she was very upset and worried about me. My father got on the phone and told me that he could make sure that Michael paid for what he done to me. I told my father that I did not want him to get in trouble worrying about Michael and that he was not worth it. I was glad to be away from him! After my father calmed down, I talked with my mother again and I reassured her that Lucky and I were okay. What

I didn't know is that while I was on the phone with my mother, Judy had called Tina and told her what happened and Tina didn't live far from Judy and was on her way over.

Tina arrived at Judy's house within the next 15 minutes and she immediately came over to me to see if I was alright. She hugged me and examined my nose. I told her what happened and she told me that I did the right thing by leaving Michael. I told her that Michael hit Lucky very hard. Tina saw Lucky and she also fell in love with him. She told me how beautiful that he was and I told her all about how I adopted him.

We took Lucky inside and Tina feed him and played with him for a while. I called Kyle and told him that I needed the day off due to an emergency. Kyle asked me what happened and I told him what Michael did to me. Kyle was very upset about this and I asked him to keep this information to himself because I did not need the entire office knowing about what happened between me and Michael. Kyle agreed and told me to take as much time as I needed and he made me promise to call him if anything else happened.

Monica and Rosa stayed for a while talking with Judy while I sat in the kitchen with Tina. Tina asked me why did I not call her and I told her that I did not want to get her involved because if Michael knew about us, it could have made things worse. Tina reprimanded me for not leaning on her and she told me that I can talk to her about anything and that this was an important matter now especially since Michael has become physically abusive. I promised her that I would do so in the future. Tina cleaned up my bruises and held me gently in her arms. After a few minutes, I asked Judy if she had any wine and she gave Tina and I a glass of my favorite red wine while Lucky played with Monica and Rosa. Lucky seemed much better than before and I was happy to have gotten him away from Michael.

We all sat together talking and drinking wine. Monica and Rosa had some advice for me and I apologized to them for having to meet them under such awful circumstances. They told me not to worry about it and that they were very happy to have been able to help me to get out of that situation and they extended an offer of help in the near future. I hugged and thanked them and they left to go home. I was left sitting with Judy and Tina and I felt peaceful. Judy brought out some beer, cheese and crackers while Lucky played with his toys in the nearby corner of the kitchen. Tina held my hand while Judy looked on with a smile of satisfaction. After a moment, Judy held Tina and my hand and she said that we need to take a solemn oath from

this day forward to help each other in our time of need. We all agreed and made a toast of it! I was grateful to Judy, her friends and Tina. I told Judy that I did not know what I would do if I did not have her. Judy told me that is what true friendship is all about.

We chatted for a while and then Judy took my things to the empty bedroom. She also put Lucky's bed next to mine. Judy took Lucky for a walk while I sat in the kitchen talking with Tina. I told Tina how much that she meant to me and how I did not want to create problems in her life with my situation with Michael. Tina told me that I no longer have a situation with Michael and she asked me if we owned the house. I told Tina that we were renting it and she said then I no longer have any obligations to Michael. I loved the way she looked at things and the way she embraced life. I was truly smitten with her and I wanted to spend more time getting to know her better. We held hands and laugh and told jokes for a while and then we talked about Connie's interview.

Tina told me that I was worried about nothing and that things were not as bad as I thought they would be pertaining to Connie's interview. I agreed with her and Tina decided that it was time for her to go home. I walked her to her car and she asked me when will we see each other again. I told her that I would like to get together with her on Sunday. She was very happy about this. As Tina was getting into her car, I gently touched her shoulder and as she turned to look at me, I kissed her very passionately and I thanked her for being there for me. We held each other for a moment and then she kissed me and told me that everything will be alright. Tina then said goodnight and I told her that I would call her tomorrow.

As I was walking back to the apartment, Judy was coming back with Lucky. I laughed because she had a plastic bag and she had cleaned up after Lucky. I told her that she must really love Lucky. She laughed and said no I must really love you. We laughed for a while and then we took lucky inside. Judy told me that she was happy that I was there with her and she told me that Michael could no longer hurt me and she was happy to have been there for me. I joked with Judy about her girlfriend. I told her that her girlfriend might not approve of me living here and Judy laughed and said that her girlfriend knew that I am her best friend and she did not need to be jealous. I told Judy that I was tired and that I was going to bed. She laughed and told me good luck with getting Lucky to go to sleep. I took Lucky in my room and closed my door. I held Lucky close to me and we slept peacefully throughout the night.

CHAPTER 12

The next morning, I woke up with Lucky licking my face and jumping on my stomach. I looked at the clock and noticed that it was 9AM. I must have been extremely tired because I could not even remember the last time that I slept until 9AM. I got up and went into the bathroom to wash my face and brush my teeth. Judy was already in the kitchen and she had breakfast prepared. I told her that I was happy to have someone make breakfast for me for a change. Judy had made poached eggs, sausages and hash browns with coffee and orange juice. I had not had a breakfast like this in a long time and I ate my food very quickly. Judy laughed and asked me when did I have my last meal. We joked about the way I eat and Judy told me that my habits will change now that I am staying with her.

After breakfast, I helped Judy wash the dishes and I fed Lucky and Judy went with me to take Lucky for a walk. I took Lucky to the boardwalk near the beach and he loved barking at other dogs. After Lucky's walk, we went back to the apartment and Judy asked me what plans did I have for the day. I told her that I was going to call my attorney and talk to him about the things that I could do if Michael gave me any problems in the near future. Judy left to meet her girlfriend Sandy while I called my attorney. My attorney told me that I could take out a restraining order against Michael if anything else should happen. He told me to be careful when I return to pick up the rest of my things. I told him that I already have a police escort.

I spent the rest of the day using Judy's laptop to communicate with Brenda and Jack. I told them that I should be back to work by Tuesday. Brenda had updated me about the Messer case. She told me that the DNA results had came back as a positive match on David Messer along with his semen that was tested from one of the victims that he had raped. Brenda

told me that Kyle would be meeting with Detective Schwartz today to see if any charges will be brought against David. I asked her to keep me updated and to call me on my cell phone if anything else happens with this case. Brenda agreed and told me that she would talk to me later.

I called my mother and told her that I was getting a police escort tomorrow to pick up the rest of my things and she asked me to be careful and to call her after I come back to Judy's house. I then called Tina and we chatted for a while and she asked me if I needed her to go with me tomorrow and I told her that it was best that she stayed away and that I would call her when I returned. The rest of the day went by rather smoothly and I spent time playing and walking Lucky. Judy returned home around 9PM and we talked for a while and Judy made a light dinner and I decided to go to bed around 9:30PM knowing that tomorrow would be a hectic day for me.

I woke up the next morning at 7:30AM and I asked Judy if she could watch Lucky for me while I went over to the house with the police to get the rest of my things. Judy agreed and I left the house around 9AM headed to the police station. I arrived at the police station at 9:45AM and I asked to speak with Officer Simon. I waited for about ten minutes until Officer Simon came out of his office and I told him that I was ready to go over to the house to pick up the rest of my things. Officer Simon and Officer Richardson escorted me to the house and Michael was outside working in the yard. The officers alerted him that I was there to pick up the rest of my things. Michael tried to talk to me, but I would not listen to him and became enraged. He told me that I would never leave him because he would not let me. The officers told him to calm down and all of a sudden Tina's car pulled up behind mine in the driveway. Michael asked her what was she doing here and she told him that she was there to support me. Michael told her to get the hell out of here and she told him that she was only there to help me.

It appeared that Michael had been drinking and he was slurring some of his words. He asked Tina if she wanted me and Tina told him that I no longer wanted him and that he must come to terms with that. All of a sudden, Michael started yelling at Tina and he called her a name and smacked her. Tina fought back and the officers ran towards them to try to get things under control. By the time that the officers had reached Michael and Tina, Michael had hit Tina so hard that she was unconscious. Michael was immediately arrested while I was on the phone with 911. The ambulance arrived promptly and Tina was taken to the nearby hospital. The officers sent

a second car for back up. After spending an hour at the police station being questioned about Michael, I was able to go back to the house to collect all of my belongings and I drove back to Judy's house. Judy helped me unpack the car and I told her about what happened to Tina. Judy was angry and told me that Michael was completely out of control.

Judy went with me to the hospital to visit Tina. Tina was in stable condition when we arrived at the hospital. Tina smiled at me as I walked into the room. I held her hand and told her how sorry I was about what Michael did to her. She held my hand tightly and I asked her how was she feeling. She told me that her head was hurting a little bit but she was okay. Judy stayed with Tina while I spoke to Tina's doctor. The doctor told me that Tina was very lucky considering the fact that Michael had hit her so hard that he gave her a slight concussion. He told me that Tina would be kept at the hospital for the next two days for observation. I told the doctor that Michael had been arrested and that I would be pressing charges against him. The doctor told me that Tina must agree to do this since she is the one who was in the hospital because of Michael. I thanked the doctor for helping Tina and I told him that I would be in touch.

I called my mother and told her what Michael had done and I told her that Michael had been arrested and that he will be in jail for a while since the two officers had witness what he had done to Tina. My mother asked me if I had gotten all of my things out of the house and I reassured her that I did and there was no reason for me to return to that house again. She seemed relieved and asked me if Tina was okay. I told her that Tina had a slight concussion and that the doctor said that she would be fine. I told my mother that I had to go and that I would call her again later.

I went back to Tina's room and kissed her on the forehead gently and I told her that we must press charges against Michael. Tina told me that she had already decided to do that and I told her once again how sorry that I was for everything that happened and I told her that I would do everything within my power to make sure that this does not happen to her again and that Michael paid for what he did to her. I told her that we would press charges together against him and that the officers will do the same to make sure that Michael stays in jail. I then told Tina that I would be back tomorrow to check on her.

As Judy and I was walking to the car, Judy was very silent and I asked her if she was okay. She told me that she was very angry and shocked with what Michael had did to Tina. We talked about this for a while and I told

Judy that Michael will pay for his actions. I told Judy that we had to drive to the house to pick up Tina's car. As we were driving to the house, I got a phone call from Michael's mother. She was screaming and yelling at me for having her son arrested. She told me that I was a selfish bitch and that she had always told her son that I was bad news. I told her that her son was a loser and that if she was a good mother, maybe he would have turned out to be a better person and I asked her not to call me again.

When I hung up the phone, Judy thought that I had handled that situation quite well. She said that she would have exploded. I told Judy that I had to now focus on Lucky and Tina and that Michael would be paying for his actions. I did not really care about what his parents thought of me. Therefore, I was not really bothered by the phone call.

We arrived at the house and I drove Tina's car back to Judy's house. I parked her car directly behind Judy. Judy and I went for a walk and we talked about Michael and Tina for a while. Then we went upstairs and I went directly to bed. Judy stayed up a while playing and taking care of Lucky.

The next morning, I called my attorney and told him what happened and I ask him to file for a restraining order against Michael. I then ate breakfast, took a shower and Judy, Lucky and I went to the hospital to see how Tina was doing. Tina seemed to be in good spirits and she was eating breakfast and watching television when we got to her room. She had also called her lawyer and she asked her lawyer to press charges against Michael. The doctor said that Tina could leave the hospital tomorrow and I told her that I would be there to pick her up and take her home. Tina smiled at me and told me that everything would be okay. She made a joke about putting up with all of this stuff in order to get me. I hugged her and we chatted for a while.

Judy stayed with Tina while I went outside to walk Lucky. At that moment, I got a phone call from Brenda telling me that David Messer had been indicted for rape, kidnapping and drug charges. I let out a big sigh of relief and Brenda yelled that we did it. Brenda then put us on speaker phone and I could hear Kyle in the background saying how much of a good job that we did with this case and that we were going to celebrate when I returned to work. I was very happy about this! Brenda stated that two victims were willing to testify against David and if he is found guilty, he would be going away for a long time. I told Brenda that we both did a good job and if it was not for her or Kyle, that I could not have done this by myself. We chatted for a while and I told Brenda that I would be back in the office by Tuesday. Kyle said that he would call me again if anything

else should happen before Tuesday. He wants to make sure that I receive recognition for all of my hard work. I thanked him and then I hung up.

As I was walking back upstairs to see Tina, my cell phone rung again. This time it was my attorney. He told me that he had spoken to Michael's attorney and Michael wanted to bring charges against me for hitting him first. I was so angry that I told my attorney that he must make sure that these charges do not stick because Michael is a very dangerous and cunning man. He must pay for what he has done. I told my attorney that Michael's parents have always stood by him even when he was wrong. He always got what he wanted and this time, he must pay. My attorney asked me to come to his office so that we can go over the details.

I went back upstairs and told Tina and Judy that I had to meet with my attorney and I told them what Michael had said. I told Tina to relax so that she can get better and we would go to court to fight Michael together. I then left to meet my attorney. My attorney went over all of the paperwork and details of my case. I signed all of the paperwork related to this case and my attorney told me to be in court tomorrow morning.

I asked Judy to watch Lucky and that I had to go to court. Michael was brought out in a orange jumpsuit and he looked very shabby. His parents were sitting in the front row and they were looking at me in hatred. I stayed focus on what my attorney was saying to me and I tried hard not to make eye contact with Michael.

The judge heard both sides and a determination was made to keep Michael in jail and to indict him for attacking me and Tina. I was not brought up on any charges and I felt great. As I was leaving the court house, Michael's parents were yelling and cursing at me as my attorney took me away from the crowd and cameras.

I went back to the hospital and I told Tina about the indictment against Michael. The doctor said that Tina could go home today and I helped her get ready. I took Tina to Judy's house and I drove Tina home in her car. I told her that I would spend the night with her to make sure that she was safe. We slept together peacefully and the next morning, I got a call from Kyle. He said that David Messer had admitted to these crimes and he was being sentenced today by the judge. This was quite a turn around and I was in shock. No one expected him to admit to these crimes. His attorney was trying to get him to plea insane, but David was against this.

I immediately took a shower, got dress and went to work. I told Tina that I would check on her later during the day. I took Tina's car to work and

arrived at work at 5:30AM. Kyle and I talked about the case and I thanked him for being understanding regarding my terrible situation with Michael. Kyle hugged me and asked me if I was okay. I told him what Michael had done to Tina and that he was in jailed. Michael had been indicted on charges of abuse and I was going to make sure that he paid for hurting me, Lucky and Tina. Kyle was in shock because everyone liked Michael and no one ever had any idea how anger and abusive that Michael was. I told Kyle that I did not realize that Michael was abusive until just recently. Kyle asked me if Tina was alright and I told him that she came home from the hospital yesterday morning. I told him that we both were pressing charges against Michael and that I had moved in with Judy on a temporarily basis. I was lucky to have a friend like Judy. Kyle agreed and told me that I could come to him about anything and to let him know if I need anything. He promised me that this matter would stay strictly confidential. I was grateful for a boss like Kyle!

I called my mother and told her all of the details regarding Michael's arrest and about his parents showing up in court. My mother was quite impressed on how I handled the situation with Michael's parents. The old me would have done something crazy and my mother was grateful that I chose not to. I told her that Tina had also agreed to testify against Michael and that it looks like he will be in jail for a while. My mother and father was grateful that I was okay and that Tina did not get hurt badly. She told me that things could have turned out worse and she was thankful that we were okay. She asked me about Lucky and I told her how well that he was adjusting and I was happy that I adopted him. We chatted a little while longer and I told her that I would call her later.

I went over my emails and had a brief meeting with Jack. I then met with the Field Journalist to pick up another story. I went on the air at 5PM and I left the office at 6:30PM. I went to pick up Lucky and then I drove back to Tina's house and made dinner for us. We fed Lucky and watched television for a while. Tina told me that this whole incident made her closer to me. I fell asleep in her lap and Tina woke me up at 10PM to go to bed.

As I lay in bed with Tina, she told me that she was falling in love with me. I told her that I had deep feelings for her, but I could not say that I am in love with her as of yet. She seemed to understand this and we fell asleep until my alarm went off the next morning.

As I sat up on the edge of the bed, my entire situation left me asking myself "Who the hell am I?" I am not really sure. "So where does that leave me now?"

This is a fiction romance novel about a woman named Lucy. Lucy is in a 7 year relationship with Michael. However, she cannot commit to marriage with Michael and she does not know why until she meets Tina.



LISA VAUGHN was born in New York City and she was raised in the Bronx. After losing her employment in 2010 and also being a single mother of a 12 year old, Lisa decided to return to college to pursue a degree in Business Management and Marketing. Once she met with one of her professors who is an established writer, Lisa decided to pursue a career in writing after her professor told her that she had a niche for writing.

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